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(54) MICE THAT PRODUCE ANTIGEN-BINDING PROTEINS WITH PH-DEPENDENT BINDING CHARACTERISTICS

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(57) ABSTRACT

Genetically modified non-human animals are provided that comprise an immunoglobulin heavy chain locus comprising an unrearranged human heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence comprising an addition of at least one histidine codon or a substitution of at least one endogenous non-histidine codon with a histidine codon. Compositions and methods for making the genetically modified non-human animals as described herein are provided. Non-human animals capable of expressing an antigen-binding protein characterized by pH-dependent antigen binding, enhanced recyclability and/or enhanced serum half-life are also provided.

35 Claims, 19 Drawing Sheets

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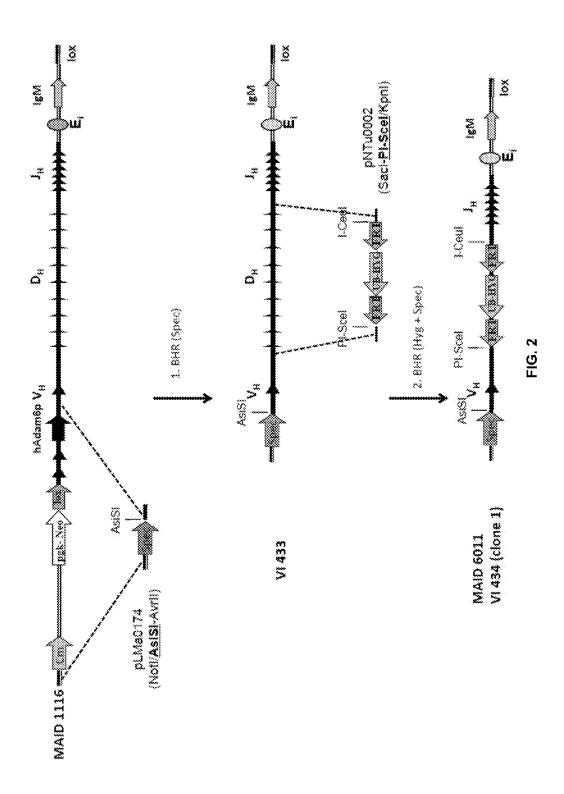
Statement of Relatedness under MPEP 2001.06 dated Oct. 14, 2015.

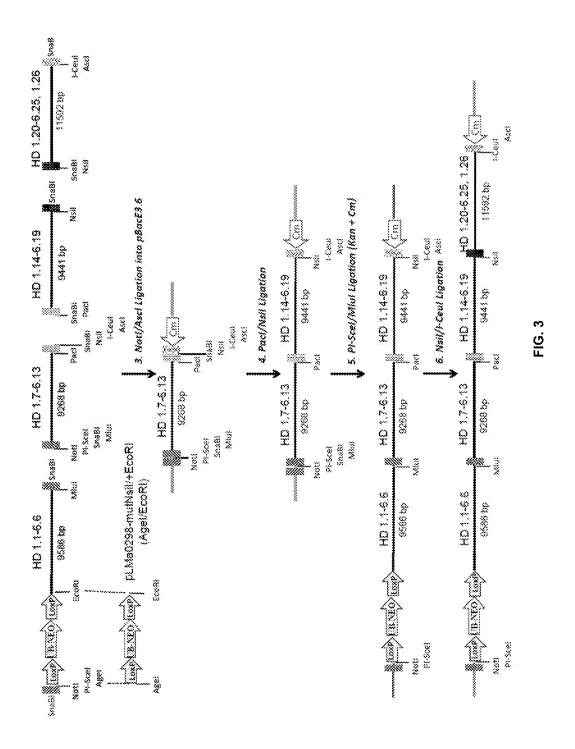
^{*} cited by examiner

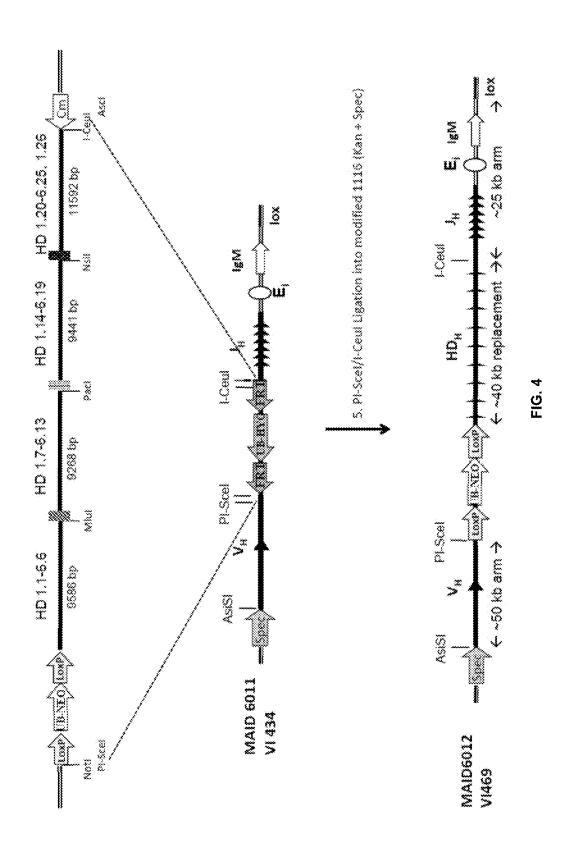
	Stop	SEQ ID NO.	Hydraphilic	SEQ ID NO.	Hydrophobic	SEQ ID NO
D.:-	KOLER	80	ZWWND	45	GTTGT	838
1 277	YPILAR RAIL	Ø	X MARC	46	GTIGT	88
01-7	## ## ## ## ## ## ## ## ## ## ## ## ##	ŧ	YNWNY	47	GITGT	æ
H2-7	\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\	Ö	XHWHX	<u></u>	arrar	æ
01-20	V*LER	ì	CNWNY	තී	GITGT	තුස
HD1-20	VSLAR	*	YHWHD	4 6	GITGT	රස
01-26	V"WELL	Ü	YSGSYY	649	GIVGAT	S
HD1-26	VSWEPL VSWEPL	₩	XHCSHX	S	GIMCAT	22
02.2*62	RIE	**	GYCSSTSCYT	27	DIVVVPAAI	32
HD2-2*02	AT SYCLPY	ťΩ	GHCSHTSCHT	22	DIVVIPAAI	SS
D2-8*01	RILY WOMLY	16, 17	GYCTNGVCYT	53	DIVLIMIYA	8
HD2-8*01	RTLYSWCMPY	<u></u>	GHCTHGVCHT	Ž,	DIVLIMIYAI	8
02-15	RIE "WAY"LLE	•	GYCSGGSCYS	33	DIVVVVAAT	95
HD2-15	RTI SWIP	1	GHCSHGSCHS	85	DIVVINIVAAT	96
02-21*02	SILWWILF	ð	AYCGGDCYS	27	HIVVVTAI	97
HD2-21*02	STLWWSLPF	8	AHCGGHCHS	88	HINNTAL	37
03-3*01	VLRFLEWLLY	77	YYDFWSGYYT	59		88
HD3-3*0*	VSPFLEWSLY	ಣ	YHHPWSGHYT	QQ	TIFG V	SS SS
03-8	VLRYFDWLL*	23	YYDILTGYYN	<u>ئ</u>	ITIF*LVII	36, 100
HD3-9	VSPYFDWSL.	24	Y##ILTGHYN	62	TIF*LVII	99, 100
D3-10*01	VLLWFGELL*	25	YYYGSGSYYN	යි	ITMVRGVII	,0;
HD3-10*01	VSPWFGESL*	82	YHHCSCSHYN	\$5	ITMVRGVII	, , ,
D3-16*02	W."LRLGELSLY	27	YYDYVWGSYRYT	සිරි	MATTFGGVIVI	102
HD3-46*02	VS*SRLGESSLY	88	YHDHVWGSHRYT	පිරි	MATFGGVIVI	102
D3-22	WL***WIL	50	YYYDSSGYYY	67	ITIMIVAVIIT	103
HD3-22	/SISMSTT	30, 31	YHYSSGHYY	සු	ITHWAIT	ä
04 -4	ָרֶסְּיָּרְ מָּיָרְ	ş	DYSNY	තුළ		105
HO4.4	** 1808	32		2	TNT	105
D4-11n	Č	ŧ	DYSNY	88	LALL.	355

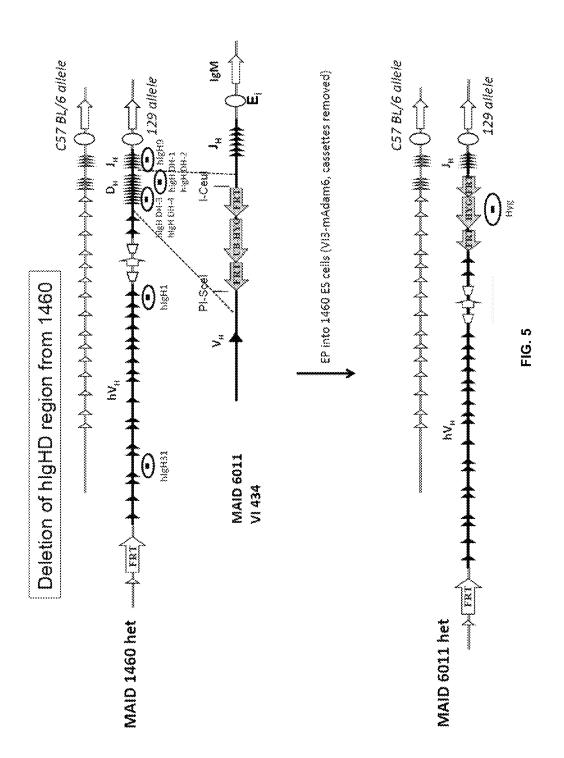
FIG. 1A

	Stop	SEQ ID NO.	Hydrophilic	SEQ IO	Hydrophobic	SEQ IO NO.
HD4-11p	*PQSL	32	DHSHY	70	TMT	105
2-42	 & &	¥	DYGDY	~	134	1 05
H02-17	*PRSL	R	DHOHY	72	173	105
04-23p		*	DYGGNS	23	TWT	106
H04-23p	*PRWSL	젊	DECEES	74	TWAT	106
05.5	MOLWL	35	GYSYGY	75	VOTAMI	107
1 555	WTOPWE	Ŗ	GHSHG/	76	VOTAMI	4
05-12	2 2 2	5	GYSGYDY	2	VOINATI	\$0
H55-12	2828	æ	Ç#SÇ#¥	200	SOS	80
05-18	MOLWL	x	GYSYGY	75	VOTAMI	407
H05-18	MOPWE	æ	Q±S±C√	76	VOTAM	407
05-24p	*AWQ	œ	RDGYNY	73	VENATI	500
HD5-24p	id a se	4		8	SOM AT	Ç
998	\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\	ş	EYSSSS	₩	SIAAR	ém èm ém
H 06-6	≯ *P[<	ŧ	EHSHSS	82	SIATR	112
5-13	\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\	4	GYSSSWY	ట	GIAAAG	ç
H06:13	A*PQL<	54	GHSHSWY	48	GIATAG	4
06-19	\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\	4 65	GYSSGWY	జిక	GIAVAG	÷
HD6-19	> *P%[<	4	GHSHG/WY	පීපි	GIAMAG	138
06-25	70%	ŧ	GYSSGY	87	GIAAA	117
HD6-25	×* 7 7 7 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	\$	GHSHGY	78	GIATA	 &:



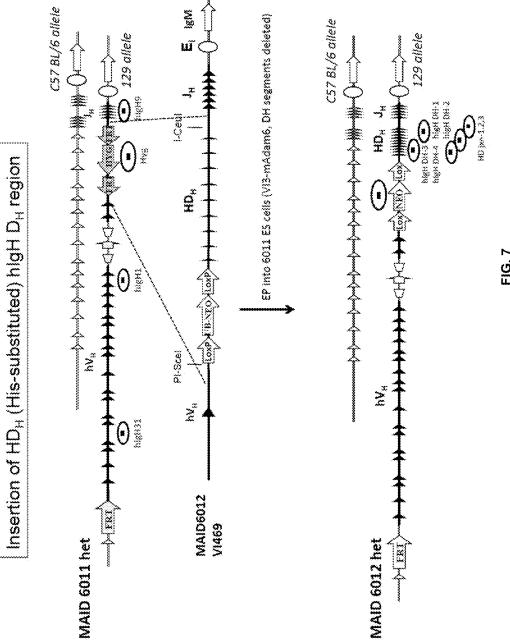






	90+1	r rodes for itemas out a juendumi er megri dri segments mi minutado	i segmenta ni mmalator j			
Name	Forward Primer	Probe	Reverse Primer	Type	Label	Location
MgH	CGGGTCACTGCCATTICTG	TCT6CATTCGCTCCCA6CGC	TCTGCGGCATGAACCCAAT	S A	FAM.	NgH D
-	(SEQ ID NO: 119)	(SEQ ID NO: 120)	(SEQ ID NO: 121)		Ç,	segments
hinu	101100000000000000000000000000000000000	A COTTO CAN CONTRACTOR A CONTRACTOR	0108100011080000000	802	3.0.5.8	6.1-6.5 73
L	515CAGGGGGGGCC11C1	ADICALLAMOLALABAGILLIBAL	SCCAGGGAGIIGCC IAGIG	3	- TA:	3 Hg
7	6 (SEQ 10 NO: 122)	(SEQ ID NO: 123)	(SEQ ID NO: 124)		<u> </u>	segments
					, ,	
high	GTGGCCCACTTCCCTTCCT	CAGCTGGAACCCACCATGACCT	GACCTGCCTCGGATGACA	RO3	FAM	high D
# *	(SEQ ID NO: 125)	(SEQ.ID NO: 126)	(SEQ ID NO: 127)		SH2	segments
					₹~ •4	
high	TGGCCAGAACTGACCCTAC	ACCGACAAGAGTCCCTCAGG	GGAGTCGGCTCTGGATGTG	10A	BHIQ.	kigH D
2 1 2	(SEQ ID NO: 128)	(SEQ ID NO: 129)	(SEQ ID NO: 130)		phus	segments
g/y	TGCGGCCGATCTTAGCC	ACGAGCGGGTTCGGCCCATTC	TIGACCGATICCTIGCGG	GOA	£4.	
	(SEQ ID NO: 131)	(SEQ ID NO: 132)	(SEQ ID NO: 133)		Q#8	
					y-r-f	
high1	CAGTELEGITGATCCAGCC	CCCATCAGGGATTTTGTATCTCTGT	GGATATGCAGCACTGTGCCAC	ar ar		Killer Hank
	(SEQ ID NO: 134)	GGACG (SEQ ID NO: 135)	(SEQ ID NO: 136)			
highs	TCCTCCAACGACAGGTCCC	TCCCTGGAACTCTGCCCCGACACA	GATGAACTGACGGGCACAGG	ልጸ		hlgH
	(SEQ IO NO: 137)	(SEQ ID NO; 138)	(SECHONO: 139)			
high31	ATCACACTCATCCCATCCCC	CCCTTCCCTAAGTACCACAGAGTGG	CACAGGGAAGCAGGAACTGC	88		High High
	(SEQ ID NO: 140)	GCTC (SEQ ID NO: 141)	(SEQ ID NO: 142)			
************			***************************************	************		*********

FIG. 6



~~~~	Probes for MAID 6012 (ins	Probes for MAID 6012 (insertion of HD, His-substituted high DH segments)	gH DH segments)			
Name	Forward Primer	Probe	Reverse Primer	Type	Labei	Location
y, y	TGCGGCCGATCTTAGCC	ACGAGCGGGTTCGGCCCATTC	TIGACCGATTCCTTGCGG	101 201	FAM	
	(SEQ ID NO: 131)	(SEQ ID MO: 132)	(SEQ ID NO: 133)		8HC1	
HD jxn-1	GGAGCCAGGCAGGACACA	TGGGCTCGTAGTTTGACGT	GGGACTITICITACCCACA	GOA	<b>M</b> G8	Synthetic
*********	(SEQ ID NO: 143)	(SEQ ID NO; 144)	CTTCA (SEQ ID NO: 145)			linker-1 in HD
						segments
HD jxn-2	GGTCCCGAGCACTCTTAATTAAA	CCTCGAATGGAACTAC	GGGAGAGCAACCATTCG	COA	MGB	Synthetic
**********	C (SEQ ID NO: 146)	(SEQ ID NO: 147)	TIGT (SEQ ID NO: 148)			linker-2 in HD
						segments
HD jxn-3	CCGAGCACCGATGCATCTA	CGCAGTCATGTAATGC	GGGAGGCGAACTGACTG	60A	MGB	Synthetic
	(SEC) ID NO: 149)	(SEQ ID MO: 150)	TCA (SEQ ID NO: 151)			linker-3 in HD
						segments
high OH-1	CGGGTCACTGCCATTTCTG	TCTGCATTCGCTCCCAGCGC	TCTGCGGCATGAACCCAA	<b>(</b> 05)	FAM-	higHo
	(SEQ 10 NO: 119)	(SEQ ID NO: 120)	T (SEQ ID NO: 121)		BHC1	segments
high OH-2	6TGCAGGGAGGACCTTCTG	AGTCACCAAGCACAGAGCCCTGA	GCCAGGGAGTTGCCTAG	60g	FAM	higH D
	(SEQ ID NO: 122)	C (SEQ ID MO; 123)	TG (SEQ ID NO: 124)		BHC1	segments
high OH-3	GTGGCCCACTTCCTTCCT	CAGCTGGAACCCACCATGACCT	GACCTGCCTCGGATGACA	60a	FAM.	high
	(SEQ ID NO: 125)	(SEQ ID NO: 126)	(SEQ ID NO: 127)		8H01	segments
high DH-4	TGGCCAGAACTGACCCTAC	ACCGACAAGAGTCCCTCAGG	66A6TCGGCTCT66ATGT6	809	BHC-	htgH D
	(SEQ ID NO: 128)	(SEQ ID NO: 129)	(SEQ ID NO: 130)		saya.	segments
nea	GGTGGAGAGGCTATTCGGC	TGGGCACAACAGACAATCGGCTG	GAACACGGGGGCATCAG	COA	FAW-	
	(SEQ ID NO: 152)	(SEQ ID MO; 153)	(SEQ ID NO: 154)		B#(C1	
hgH1	CAGTCCCGTTGATCCAGCC	CCCATCAGGGATTTTGTATCTC	GGATATGCAGCACTGTGCC	AR		MgH
	(SEQ ID NO: 134)	TGTGGACG (SEQ ID NO: 135)	AC (SEQ ID NO: 136)			
higH9	TCCTCCAACGACAGGTCCC	TCCTGGAACTCTGCCCCGACACA	GATGAACTGACGGGCACA	<b>X</b>		high
	(SEQ ID NO: 137)	(SEQ ID MO: 138)	GG (SEQ ID NO: 139)			
higH31	ATCACACTCATCCCATCCCC	CCCTTCCCTAAGTACCACAGAGTG	CACAGGGAAGCAGGAACT	৪৯		high
	(SEQ ID NO: 140)	GGCTC (SEQ ID NO: 141)	6C (SEQ ID NO: 142)			

FIG. 8

MAID 6013: Cassette removal of HD-VI3

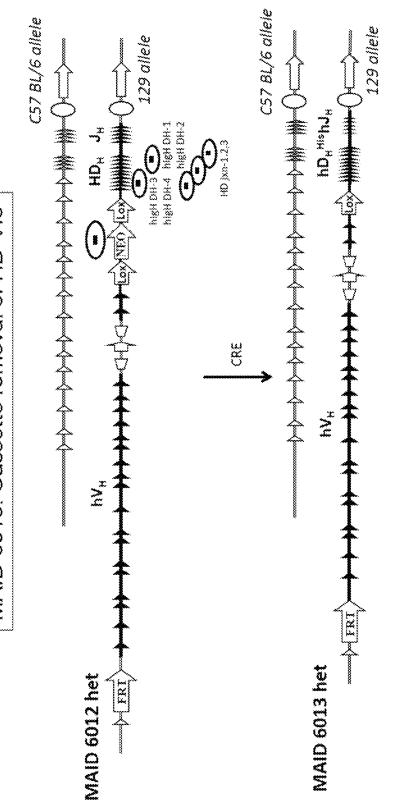


FIG. 9

Human D Gene Segment	ne Segment	Direct 5'-3' Orientation	SEQ IO	Inverted Orientation	8 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
GHD1	X97051, (GHD1-1°01	gglacaaciggaacgac G T T G T V Q L E R Y N W N D	స్ట్ చివా చి	gtcgttccagttgtacc V V P V V S F Q L Y R S S C T	206 207 208 209
13HD1.7	X13972, IGHD1-7*01	ggrataactggaactac GITGT GITEL VIEL VNWNY	15g 89 - F±	gtagttccagtatacc VVPV1 VPQLY FQLY SSSYT	2 2 2 2 2 2 ± 25 5
IGHD 1:20	X13972, IGHD1- 14*01	ggiataaccggaaccac G I T G T V * P E P Y N R N H	157 89 158 158	gtggttcggttatacc VVPVI WFRLY GSGYT	19.12.14 4 ± 6 70
IGHD 1-20	X97501, IGHD1- 20'01	ggietaactggaacgac G   T G T V * L E R Y N W N D	25. 22. 33. 34.	grogitocagitatace V V P V I S F Q L Y R S S Y T	217 208 218
IGHD1.26	X97501, IGHD1- 26°01	ggfafagtgggagcfactac G I V G A T V * W E L L Y S G S Y Y	\$ 8 5 <b>4</b>	glagfagcfcccacfafacc V V A P T I * * L P L Y S S S H Y T	223 223 223 223
10HD2-2	J00232, IGHD2-2"01	aggestattgtagtagtaccagctgctatgcc R + L · Y Q L L C G Y C S S T S C Y A D I V V V P A A M	18 55 55 18 55 55 18 55	ggcatagcagctggtactactacastatcct G I A A G T T T I S A * Q L V L L Q Y P H S S W Y Y Y N I	223 224 225 225

FIG. 10A

Human D Gene	ne Segment	Direct 5'- 3' Orientation	0 0 0 0 0 0	Inverted Orientation	SEQ ID
	X97051, IGHD2-2"02	aggatettgtagtagtaccagctgctatacc RIL**YQLLY GYCSSTSCYT DIVVVPAAI	35 ± 22 22	ggtafagcagctggtactactacaafacct G	227 225 225 225
	M35648, IGHD2-2*03	tggatatgfagfagfagfatgcc W. L. * * Y. Q. L. C. G. Y. C. S. S. T. S. C. Y. A. D. I. V. V. P. A. A. M.	25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 2	ggcatagcagctggtactactacaatatca G   A A G T T T   S A G L V L L Q Y P H S S W Y Y N N I	228 224 225 226
	X13972, IGHD2-8°01	aggalaftgractaatggtgratacc RILY:WCMLY GYCTNGVCYT DIVLMVYAI	170 16, 17 53 94	ggtalagcataccattagtacaatatct G: AYT   ST   S V * HT P L V QYP Y S: H H * Y N!	230 231 232 233
7 2 2 9	J000233, IGHD2-8°02	aagalatigfactggtggfgfalgclatacc R   L Y W W CM L Y G Y C T G G V C Y T D   V L V V Y A I	<u> </u>	ggistagicatactactactactatatatatatatatatatatatat	732 73 732 73
IGHD2-15	J00234, IGHD2- 15*01	aggatattgtagtggtggtagttgttactcc R I L · W W · L L L G Y C S G G S C Y S D I V V V A A T	\$5 · \$3.8 \$5 · \$3.8	ggagtagctaccactacaatatct G V A A T T T T 1 S E ' Q L P P L Q Y P S S S Y H H Y N I	233 238 240 240
IGHD2-21	J00235, IGHD2- 21*01	agcatathgliggtiggtigatigctatics SILWW'LLF AYCGGDCYS HIVVVIAI	#1 52 CE	Ogsahagcaatcaccaccacaatatgct G	24 24 24 24 24 24 24 35 25 25
	X97051, IGHD2- 21702	agcataltgiggiggigactgctaftcc S + L W W * L L F A Y C G G D C Y S H + I V V V T A +	878 57 97	ggaatagtactacacataatgct G	245 245 247 248

FIG. 10B

Human D Gene	ne Segment	Direct 5'- 3' Orientation	SEQ N	Inverted Orientation	SEO ON ON ON
	X13972, IGHD3-3*01	gratacgattttggagtggtattacc VLRFLEWLLY YYDFWSGYYT	179 24 29 36	ggrataaccactccasasatcgtastac G   T T P K   V   V * * P L Q K S * Y Y N N H S K N R N	249 251 251 252
6н03-3	X93618, IGHD3-3*02	glattagcatttilggagliggitaitaicc VLAFLEWLLY Y HFWSGYYT 1SIFGVVII	8 2 2 2 2	ggtalaataaccactccaaaaggclaalac G	255 255 255 255
СНОЗ-8	X13972. IGHD3-9°01	gfattacgatetttgactggitaftataac VLRYFDWLL' YYDILTGYYN ITIFFLVII	184 23 99, 100	gftataataaccagfcaaaufatcgfaafac VIITSQNIVI L**PVKIS*Y YNNQSKYRN	257 258 260 260
юнD3-10	X13972. 1GHD3- 10°01 X93815, 1GHD3- 10°02	grantactatiggtcggggggtattataac  V L W F G E LL *  Y Y Y G S G S Y Y N  I T M V R G V      grantactatigftcggggggttattatac  V L L C S G S Y Y N  Y Y Y V R G V !    I TM F G R L L *	\$ X G O \$ \$ \$ \$ \$	gitateateactcccgaaccatagtaatac  VIITPRTIVI  L.* LPEP.* Y  YNNSPNHSN  gitateateactcccgaacatagtaatac  VIITPRT.* Y  L.* LPEHSN  YNNSPNIVI	262 263 265 265 265 265 265 265 265 265 265 265
(GHD3-16	X93514, IGHD3- 16°01	ghathatgathacgthtgggggaghatgctlatacc VL*LRLGELCLY YYDYVWGSYAYT 1 MITFGGVMLI	8528	ggiafaagcafaactccccaaacgtaatcataatac 6   S   T P P N V   1   1   V X A * L P D T * S * Y Y Y X X Y X Y X Y X Y X Y X Y X Y X	269 270 271 272
юнрз-22	X93616, IGHD3- 22'01	grattactatgalagtagtggtfattactac V L L W L L L Y Y Y D S & G Y Y Y F TM I V V V I T	25 8 8 ED	glagtaataaccactactatcatagtaatac VVITTTIV I VIVITTIVI SVIX	273 274 275 276

FIG. 10C

Human D Gene	ne Segment	Direct 5'- 3' Orientation	SEO O	Inverted Orientation	SEO IN
240H8	X13972, IGHD4-4"01	tgactacagtaactac	25 . 83 105	gtagttactgtagtca	277 278 279
10HD4-71	X13972, IGHD4- 111'01	tyactacaglaactac  L Q · L  D Y S M Y  T T V T	195 , 68 105	gtagttactgtagtca v v r v v · L L * S s v c s	277 278 279
IGHD4-17	X97501, IGHD4- 17*01	tyactacggtyactac	\$ · £ 6	gtægtcæccgtægtcæ VVTVV SPSPSS SHRS	280 278
IGHD4-23	X97051, (GHD4- 23*01	gactacggtggtaactcc * L. R. W. * L. D.Y. G. G. N. S. T. T. V. V. T.	197 • 105	ggagttaccaccgtagtca G V T T V V E L P P · S S Y H R S	7883 7883 7883 7883 7883 7883 7883 7883
16HD5-5	X13972, IGHD5-3'01	gregatacagctatogrtac VDTAMV WIQLWL GYSYGY	\$ 5 5 8 5 8 5	gtaaccatagcigtatccac V T I AV S V P I V P N H S C I H	285 287 288
16HD5-12	X13972, IGHDS- 12*01	griggateragiggctecgattac V D I V A T I W I W L R L G Y S G Y D Y	1 37 E	gtaatcgtagccactatatccac V + V A T + S · S · P L Y P N R S H Y ! H	282 283
IGHD5-18	X87051. IGHD5- 18°01	gtggatacagctatggttac VDTAMV WIQLWL GYSYGY	136 107 35 75	gtaaccatagctgtatccac VTIAVS VPILYP NHSCIH	285 287 288

Human D Gene Segment	ne Segment	Direct 5'- 3' Orientation	SEO CO CO CO CO CO	Inverted Orientation	SEO NO O
IGHD5-24	X97051, (GHD5- 24*01	gragagetgctaccattac V E M A T I V R W L Q L R D G Y N Y	8588	glæafiglægcæittctac V I V A I S • L • P S L N C S H L Y	28. 28. 38. 38. 38.
ICHD6-6	X13972, IGHDE-6"01	gagiatagcagctcgfcc E Y S S S S S S I A A R V O L V	20.52.	ggargagctgctatactc GRAA!L DELLY TSCYT	296 297 298 299
IGHD6-13	X13972, IGHD6- 13*01	gggfatagcagctggtac G Y S S W Y G I A A A G V * Q Q L V	22 22 4 4 4	glaccagctgctataccc VPAAAP YQLLEY TSCCYT	302 301
IGHD6-19	X97051, IGHD6- 19101	ggglatagcagtggctggtac G Y S S G W Y G I A V A G V * Q W L V	203 116 44	graccagocactgotatacoc VPATAIP YOPLLY TSHCYT	30,800
IGHD6-25	X97051, IGHD6- 25°01	gggfafagcagcggctac G Y S S G Y G I A A A V * Q R L	¥2 % 1.	gragocgotgotatacoc V A A A I P V P L L Y S R C Y T	308 310 310 311
юнр7-27	J00256, IGHD7- Z7'01	craectgggga LTG LCG NWG	205	tcccagitag S D < P D L P S *	£ , , ,

## Antibody Sequence 1

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FIG. 11

# Antibody Sequence 2

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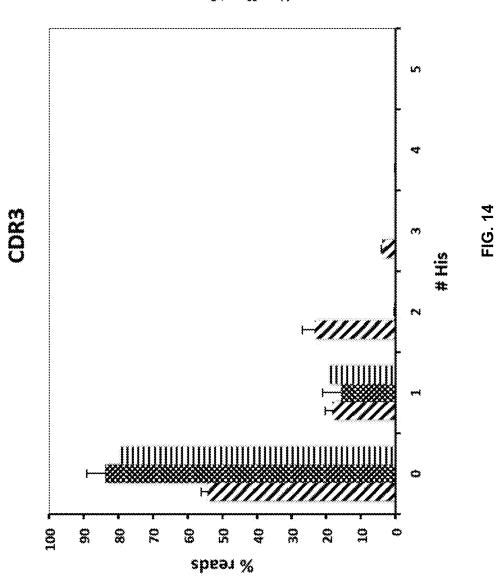
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### MICE THAT PRODUCE ANTIGEN-BINDING PROTEINS WITH PH-DEPENDENT BINDING CHARACTERISTICS

## CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application claims the benefit of priority to U.S. Provisional Application No. 61/611,950, filed 16 Mar. 2012, U.S. Provisional Application No. 61/613,352, filed Mar. 20, 2012, and U.S. Provisional Application No. 61/736,930, filed 13 Dec. 2012, the entire contents of each of the applications are incorporated herein by reference.

### FIELD OF THE INVENTION

Genetically modified immunoglobulin loci of non-human animals comprising an unrearranged human heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence, wherein the unrearranged human heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence com- 20 prises an addition of least one histidine codon or a substitution of at least one non-histidine codon with a histidine codon. Non-human animals, including rodents, e.g., mice and rats, comprising in their germline an unrearranged human immunoglobulin heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence, 25 wherein the unrearranged human immunoglobulin heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence comprises an addition of least one histidine codon or a substitution of at least one non-histidine codon with a histidine codon. Genetically engineered non-human animals capable of expressing an 30 antigen-binding protein that is characterized by pH-dependent antigen binding, improved recyclability, and/or enhanced serum half-life.

### BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Drugs administered into the body, including therapeutic monoclonal antibodies, can be affected via various elimination mechanisms, including glomerular filtration (e.g., into urine), secretion (e.g., into the bile), and catabolism by cells. 40 While small molecules are cleared from the body via renal filtration, the majority of secreted antibodies (e.g., IgG, which are too big to be filtered through glomeruli) are primarily removed from the body via cell-mediated catabolism, e.g., fluid-phase endocytosis (phagocytosis) or receptor-mediated 45 endocytosis. For example, soluble molecules with several repeated epitopes are bound by a plurality of circulating antibodies, and the resulting large antigen-antibody complexes are phagocytosed rapidly into cells for degradation. On the other hand, cell surface target receptors, which are bound by 50 antibodies (i.e., receptor-antibody complexes), undergo target-mediated endocytosis in a dose-dependent manner, which leads to formation of endosomes destined for lysosomal degradation inside cells. In some cases, the endocytosed receptor-antibody complexes bind neonatal Fc receptors (FcRn) 55 inside the endosomes in a pH-dependent manner and are routed back to the cell surface for release into plasma or interstitial fluids upon exposure to a neutral extracellular pH (e.g., pH 7.0-7.4).

There is a need in the art for systems, e.g., non-human 60 animals, cells, and genomic loci that generate antigen-binding proteins with titratable residues, e.g., genetically modified loci that rearrange immunoglobulin gene segments to generate heavy chain variable domains that respond to changes in pH, e.g., that donate or accept protons and, e.g., 65 whose binding characteristics differ according to protonation state.

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There is also a need in the art for methods and compositions that can further increase recycling efficiency of endocytosed antigen-binding proteins by promoting dissociation of antigen-binding proteins from receptor-antigen-binding protein complexes or by increasing the affinity of antigen-binding proteins toward FcRn in an acidic endosomal compartment without compromising the specificity and affinity of the antigen-binding protein toward an antigen of interest.

### SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Genetically modified immunoglobulin heavy chain loci in the germline genome of non-human animals are provided, wherein the immunoglobulin heavy chain loci comprise a 15 genetically modified unrearranged heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence (e.g., one or more genetically  $\operatorname{modified} \operatorname{human} V_H, \operatorname{D}, \operatorname{and/or} \operatorname{J}_H \operatorname{gene} \operatorname{segment}),$  wherein the unrearranged heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence comprises an addition of at least one histidine codon or a substitution of at least one endogenous non-histidine codon with a histidine codon. In various embodiments, the genetically modified unrearranged heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence comprises at least one histidine codon in at least one reading frame that encodes an immunoglobulin heavy chain variable domain. In various embodiments, the unrearranged heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence comprising the at least one histidine codon is operably linked to a human or non-human heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence (e.g., a heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence that encodes an immunoglobulin isotype selected from IgM, IgD, IgA, IgE, and IgG).

Non-human animals (mammals, e.g., rodents such as mice, rats, or hamsters) are provided that are genetically engineered to contain immunoglobulin heavy chain genomic loci in their 35 germline genome, wherein the genomic loci comprise an unrearranged heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence (e.g., one or more genetically modified human V_H, D, and/or  $J_H$  gene segments), wherein the unrearranged heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence comprises an addition of at least one histidine codon or a substitution of at least one endogenous non-histidine codon with a histidine codon. In various embodiments, the genome of the non-human animals comprises a modification (i) that deletes or renders nonfunctional all, or substantially all, endogenous immunoglobulin  $V_H$ , D, and/or  $J_H$  gene segments (e.g., via insertion of a nucleotide sequence, e.g., an exogenous nucleotide sequence, in the immunoglobulin locus or via non-functional rearrangement or inversion of endogenous  $V_H$ , D, and/or  $J_H$ gene segments); and (ii) that introduces an unrearranged human heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence (e.g., genetically modified human  $V_H$ , D, or  $J_H$  gene segments), wherein the unrearranged heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence comprises an addition of at least one histidine codon or a substitution of at least one endogenous non-histidine codon with a histidine codon. In various embodiments, the unrearranged heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence is present at an endogenous locus (i.e., where the unrearranged heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence is located in a wild-type non-human animal) or present ectopically (e.g., at a locus different from the endogenous immunoglobulin heavy chain locus in its genome), or within its endogenous locus (e.g., within an immunoglobulin variable locus, wherein the endogenous locus is placed or moved to a different location in the genome). In various embodiments, the immunoglobulin heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence is operably linked to a human or non-human heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence

(e.g., a heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence that encodes an immunoglobulin isotype selected from IgM, IgD, IgA, IgE, and IgG).

Genetically modified non-human animals are provided that are capable of expressing a genetically modified immunoglobulin heavy variable domain comprising one or more histidines, wherein the one or more histidines are not encoded by a germline gene segment of a corresponding wild-type non-human animal.

Genetically modified non-human animals are provided that comprise a B cell population that is characterized by rearranged immunoglobulin heavy chain variable genes that encode an immunoglobulin heavy chain variable domain with one or more histidines that are not encoded by a germline gene segment of a corresponding wild-type non-human animal

Methods and compositions are provided for making non-human animals that comprise a genetically modified immunoglobulin heavy chain variable locus comprising an unrearranged human heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence containing one or more histidine codons in at least one reading frame that encodes a heavy chain variable domain.

Methods and compositions are provided for non-human 25 animals that make antigen-binding proteins that exhibit a pH-dependent binding of an antigen. Methods and compositions are provided for making non-human animals that have B cell populations, or antibody populations, that are enriched (as compared with corresponding wild-type animals) with 30 antigen-binding proteins that are pH-dependent, e.g., in particular, heavy chain variable domains, and/or antigen-binding fragments thereof.

In one aspect, a genetically modified immunoglobulin locus in a germline genome of a non-human animal is provided comprising an unrearranged human heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence, wherein the unrearranged heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence comprises an addition of least one histidine codon or a substitution of at least one endogenous non-histidine codon with a histidine 40 codon.

In one embodiment, the non-human animal is a mammal, including a rodent, e.g., a mouse, a rat, or a hamster.

In one embodiment, the added or substituted histidine codon is present in an immunoglobulin heavy chain gene 45 segment selected from a human  $V_H$  gene segment, a human D gene segment, a human  $J_H$  gene segment, and a combination thereof. In one embodiment, the immunoglobulin heavy chain gene segment is selected from a human germline  $V_H$  gene segment, a human germline D gene segment, a human 50 germline  $J_H$  gene segment, and a combination thereof.

In one embodiment, the human V gene segment ( $V_H$ ) is selected from the group consisting of  $V_H$ 1-2,  $V_H$ 1-3,  $V_H$ 1-8,  $V_H$ 1-18,  $V_H$ 1-24,  $V_H$ 1-45,  $V_H$ 1-46,  $V_H$ 1-58,  $V_H$ 1-69,  $V_H$ 2-5,  $V_H$ 2-26,  $V_H$ 2-70,  $V_H$ 3-7,  $V_H$ 3-9,  $V_H$ 3-11,  $V_H$ 3-13,  $V_H$ 3-15, 55  $V_H$ 3-16,  $V_H$ 3-20,  $V_H$ 3-21,  $V_H$ 3-23,  $V_H$ 3-30,  $V_H$ 3-30-3,  $V_H$ 3-30-5,  $V_H$ 3-35,  $V_H$ 3-35,  $V_H$ 3-36,  $V_H$ 3-48,  $V_H$ 3-49,  $V_H$ 3-53,  $V_H$ 3-64,  $V_H$ 3-66,  $V_H$ 3-72,  $V_H$ 3-73,  $V_H$ 3-74,  $V_H$ 4-4,  $V_H$ 4-28,  $V_H$ 4-30-1,  $V_H$ 4-30-2,  $V_H$ 4-30-4,  $V_H$ 4-31,  $V_H$ 4-39,  $V_H$ 4-59,  $V_H$ 4-61,  $V_H$ 5-51,  $V_H$ 6-1,  $V_H$ 7-4-1,  $V_H$ 7-81, 60 and a combination thereof.

In one embodiment, the human D gene segment is selected from the group consisting of D1-1, D1-7, D1-14, D1-20, D1-26, D2-2, D2-8, D2-15, D2-21, D3-3, D3-9, D3-10, D3-16, D3-22, D4-4, D4-11, D4-17, D4-23, D5-12, D5-5, 65 D5-18, D5-24, D6-6, D6-13, D6-19, D6-25, D7-27, and a combination thereof.

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In one embodiment, the human J gene segment is selected from the group consisting of  $J_H1$ ,  $J_H2$ ,  $J_H3$ ,  $J_H4$ ,  $J_H5$ ,  $J_H6$ , and a combination thereof.

In one embodiment, the added or substituted histidine codon is present in the unrearranged heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence that encodes an N-terminal region, a loop 4 region, a CDR1, a CDR2, a CDR3, or a combination thereof.

In one embodiment, the unrearranged heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence comprises 2 or more, 3 or more, 4 or more, 5 or more, 6 or more, 7 or more, 8 or more, 9 or more, 10 or more, 11 or more, 12 or more, 13 or more, 14 or more, 15 or more, 16 or more, 17 or more, 18 or more, 19 or more, 20 or more, 21 or more, 22 or more, 23 or more, 24 or more, or 25 or more, 26 or more, 27 or more, 28 or more, 29 or more, 30 or more, 31 or more, 32 or more, 33 or more, 34 or more 35 or more, 36 or more, 37 or more, 38 or more, 39 or more, 40 or more, 41 or more, 42 or more, 43 or more, 44 or more, 45 or more, 46 or more, 47 or more, 48 or more, 49 or more, 50 or more, 51 or more, 52 or more, 53 or more, 54 or more, 55 or more, 56 or more, 57 or more, 58 or more, 59 or more, 60 or more, or 61 or more of histidine codons.

Methods and compositions are provided for non-human aimals that make antigen-binding proteins that exhibit a H-dependent binding of an antigen. Methods and composions are provided for making non-human animals that have B In one embodiment, the unrearranged heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence is operably linked to a human or non-human heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence that encodes an immunoglobulin isotype selected from IgM, IgD, IgG, IgE, and IgA.

In one embodiment, the human unrearranged immunoglobulin heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence is operably linked to a human or non-human heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence selected from a  $C_H1$ , a hinge, a  $C_H2$ , a  $C_H3$ , and a combination thereof. In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence comprises a  $C_H1$ , a hinge, a  $C_H2$ , and a  $C_H3$  (i.e.,  $C_H1$ -hinge- $C_H2$ - $C_H3$ ).

In one embodiment, a heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence is present at an endogenous locus (i.e., where the nucleotide sequence is located in a wild-type non-human animal) or present ectopically (e.g., at a locus different from the endogenous immunoglobulin chain locus in its genome, or within its endogenous locus, e.g., within an immunoglobulin variable locus, wherein the endogenous locus is placed or moved to a different location in the genome).

In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence comprises a modification in a  $C_H2$  or a  $C_H3$ , wherein the modification increases the affinity of the heavy chain constant region amino acid sequence to FcRn in an acidic environment (e.g., in an endosome where pH ranges from about 5.5 to about 6.0).

In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence encodes a human heavy chain constant region amino acid sequence comprising a modification at position 250 (e.g., E or Q); 250 and 428 (e.g., L or F); 252 (e.g., L/Y/F/W or T), 254 (e.g., S or T), and 256 (e.g., S/R/Q/E/D or T); or a modification at position 428 and/or 433 (e.g., L/R/S/ P/Q or K) and/or 434 (e.g., H/F or Y); or a modification at position 250 and/or 428; or a modification at position 307 or 308 (e.g., 308F, V308F), and 434. In one embodiment, the modification comprises a 428L (e.g., M428L) and 434S (e.g., N434S) modification; a 428L, 259I (e.g., V259I), and 308F (e.g., V308F) modification; a 433K (e.g., H433K) and a 434 (e.g., 434Y) modification; a 252, 254, and 256 (e.g., 252Y,  $254\text{T}, and\,256\text{E})\,modification;$  a  $250\text{Q}\,and\,428\text{L}\,modification}$ (e.g., T250Q and M428L); and a 307 and/or 308 modification (e.g., 308F or 308P), wherein the modification increases the affinity of the heavy chain constant region amino acid

sequence to FcRn in an acidic environment (e.g., in an endosome where pH ranges from about 5.5 to about 6.0).

In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence encodes a human  $C_{H2}$  amino acid sequence comprising at least one modification between amino acid residues at positions 252 and 257, wherein the modification increases the affinity of the human  $C_{H2}$  amino acid sequence to FcRn in an acidic environment (e.g., in an endosome where pH ranges from about 5.5 to about 6.0).

In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence encodes a human  $C_H2$  amino acid sequence comprising at least one modification between amino acid residues at positions 307 and 311, wherein the modification increases the affinity of the  $C_H2$  amino acid sequence to FcRn in an acidic environment (e.g., in an endosome where pH ranges from about 5.5 to about 6.0).

In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence encodes a human  $C_H3$  amino acid sequence, wherein the  $C_H3$  amino acid sequence comprises at least one modification between amino acid residues at positions 433 and 436, wherein the modification increases the affinity of the  $C_H3$  amino acid sequence to FcRn in an acidic environment (e.g., in an endosome where pH ranges from about 5.5 to about 6.0).

In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence encodes a human heavy chain constant region amino acid sequence comprising a mutation selected from the group consisting of M428L, N434S, and a combination thereof.

In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence encodes a human heavy chain constant region amino acid sequence comprising a mutation selected from the group consisting of M428L, V259I, V308F, and a combination thereof.

In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence encodes a human heavy chain constant region amino acid sequence comprising an N434A mutation.

In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence encodes a human heavy chain constant region amino acid sequence comprising a mutation selected from the group consisting of M252Y, S254T, T256E, and a combination thereof.

In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence encodes a human heavy chain constant region amino acid sequence comprising a mutation selected from the group consisting of T250Q, M248L, or both.

In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence encodes a human heavy chain constant region 50 amino acid sequence comprising a mutation selected from the group consisting of H433K, N434Y, or both.

In one embodiment, the genetically modified immunoglobulin locus comprises: (1) a first allele, wherein the unrearranged human immunoglobulin heavy chain variable region 55 nucleotide sequence as described herein is operably linked to a first heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence encoding a first CH₃ amino acid sequence of a human IgG selected from IgG1, IgG2, IgG4, and a combination thereof; and (2) a second allele, wherein the unrearranged human 60 immunoglobulin heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence as described herein is operably linked to a second heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence encoding a second C_H3 amino acid sequence of the human IgG selected from IgG1, IgG2, IgG4, and a combination thereof, and 65 wherein the second CH₃ amino acid sequence comprises a modification that reduces or eliminates binding for the second

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CH₃ amino acid sequence to Protein A (see, for example, US 2010/0331527A1, which is incorporated by reference herein in its entirety).

In one embodiment, the second CH₃ amino acid sequence comprises an H95R modification (by IMGT exon numbering; H435R by EU numbering). In one embodiment the second CH₃ amino acid sequence further comprises an Y96F modification (by IMGT exon numbering; H436F by EU). In another embodiment, the second CH₃ amino acid sequence comprises both an H95R modification (by IMGT exon numbering; H435R by EU numbering) and an Y96F modification (by IMGT exon numbering; H436F by EU).

In one embodiment, the second CH₃ amino acid sequence is from a modified human IgG1 and further comprises a mutation selected from the group consisting of D16E, L18M, N44S, K52N, V57M, and V82I (IMGT; D356E, L38M, N384S, K392N, V397M, and V422I by EU).

otide sequence encodes a human  $C_H3$  amino acid sequence, wherein the  $C_H3$  amino acid sequence comprises at least one modification between amino acid residues at positions 433 and 436, wherein the modification increases the affinity of the modification increases the affinity of the large  $C_H3$  amino acid sequence is from a modified human IgG2 and further comprises a mutation selected from the group consisting of N44S, K52N, and V82I (IMGT: N384S, K392N, and V422I by EU).

In one embodiment, the second CH₃ amino acid sequence is from a modified human IgG4 and further comprises a mutation selected from the group consisting of Q15R, N44S, K52N, V57M, R69K, E79Q, and V82I (IMGT: Q355R, N384S, K392N, V397M, R409K, E419Q, and V422I by EU).

In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region amino acid sequence is a non-human constant region amino acid sequence, and the heavy chain constant region amino acid sequence comprises one or more of any of the types of modifications described above.

In one embodiment, all or substantially all endogenous  $V_{I\!P}$ , D, and  $J_{I\!P}$  gene segments are deleted from an immunoglobulin heavy chain locus or rendered non-functional (e.g., via insertion of a nucleotide sequence (e.g., an exogenous nucleotide sequence) in the immunoglobulin locus or via non-functional rearrangement, or inversion, of the endogenous  $V_{I\!P}$ , D,  $J_{I\!P}$  segments). In one embodiment, e.g., about 80% or more, about 85% or more, about 90% or more, about 95% or more, or about 99% or more of all endogenous  $V_{I\!P}$ , D, or  $J_{I\!P}$  gene segments are deleted or rendered non-functional. In one embodiment, e.g., at least 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, or 99% of endogenous functional V, V, or V gene segments are deleted or rendered non-functional.

In one embodiment, the genetically modified immunoglobulin heavy chain locus comprises a modification that deletes or renders non-functional all, or substantially all, endogenous  $V_H$ , D, and  $J_H$  gene segments; and the genetically modified locus comprises an unrearranged heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence comprising one or more human  $V_H$ , D, and/or J_H gene segments having one or more histidine codons, wherein the unrearranged heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence is present at an endogenous location (i.e., where the nucleotide sequence is located in a wild-type nonhuman animal) or present ectopically (e.g., at a locus different from the endogenous immunoglobulin chain locus in its genome), or within its endogenous locus (e.g., within an immunoglobulin variable locus, wherein the endogenous locus is placed or moved to a different location in the genome).

In one embodiment, the genetically modified immunoglobulin locus comprises an endogenous Adam6a gene, Adam6b gene, or both, and the genetic modification does not affect the expression and/or function of the endogenous Adam6a gene, Adam6b gene, or both.

In one embodiment, the genetically modified immunoglobulin locus comprises an ectopically present Adam6a gene, Adam6b gene, or both. In one embodiment, the Adam6a gene is a non-human Adam6a gene. In one embodiment, the Adam6a gene is a human Adam6a gene. In one embodiment, 5 the Adam6b gene is a non-human Adam6b gene. In one embodiment, the Adam6b gene is a human Adam6b gene.

In one embodiment, the genetically modified immunoglobulin locus further comprises a humanized, unrearranged  $\lambda$ and/or κ light chain variable gene sequence. In one embodiment, the humanized, unrearranged  $\lambda$  and/or  $\kappa$  light chain variable gene sequence is operably linked to an immunoglobulin light chain constant region nucleotide sequence selected from a \( \lambda \) light chain constant region nucleotide sequence and a k light chain constant region nucleotide 15 sequence. In one embodiment, the humanized, unrearranged λ light chain variable region nucleotide sequence is operably linked to a  $\lambda$  light chain constant region nucleotide sequence. In one embodiment, the  $\lambda$  light chain constant region nucleotide sequence is a mouse, rat, or human sequence. In one 20 embodiment, the humanized, unrearranged κ light chain variable region nucleotide sequence is operably linked to a κ light chain constant region nucleotide sequence. In one embodiment, the  $\kappa$  light chain constant region nucleotide sequence is a mouse, rat, or human sequence.

In one embodiment, the genetically modified immunoglobulin locus comprises an unrearranged light chain variable gene sequence that contains at least one modification that introduces at least one histidine codon in at least one reading frame encoding a light chain variable domain. In one embodi- 30 ment, the genetically modified immunoglobulin locus comprises a rearranged (e.g., rearranged  $\lambda$  or  $\kappa$  V/J sequence) sequence that comprises one, two, three, or four codons for histidine in a light chain CDR. In one embodiment, the CDR is a selected from a CDR1, CDR2, CDR3, and a combination 35 thereof. In one embodiment, the unrearranged or rearranged light chain variable region nucleotide sequence is an unrearranged or rearranged human  $\lambda$  or  $\kappa$  light chain variable region nucleotide sequence. In one embodiment, the unrearranged or rearranged human  $\lambda$  or  $\kappa$  light chain variable region nucleotide sequence is present at an endogenous mouse immunoglobulin light chain locus. In one embodiment, the mouse immunoglobulin light chain locus is a mouse κ locus. In one embodiment, the mouse immunoglobulin light chain locus is a mouse λ locus.

In one embodiment, the genetically modified immunoglobulin locus as described herein is present in an immunoglobulin heavy chain locus of a mouse. In one embodiment, the genetically modified immunoglobulin locus is present in a humanized immunoglobulin heavy chain locus in a VELOCI- 50 MMUNE® mouse.

In one embodiment, an antigen-binding protein comprising a heavy chain variable domain expressed by the genetically modified immunoglobulin heavy chain locus as described herein exhibits a weaker antigen binding at an 55 acidic environment (e.g., at a pH of about 5.5 to about 6.0) than a corresponding wild-type heavy chain variable domain without the genetic modification.

In one embodiment, an antigen-binding protein comprising a heavy chain variable domain expressed by the genetically modified immunoglobulin heavy chain locus as described herein has a dissociative half-life  $(t_{1/2})$  of less than 2 min at an acidic pH (e.g., pH of about 5.5 to about 6.0) at 25° C. In one embodiment, an antigen-binding protein comprising a heavy chain variable domain expressed by the genetically modified immunoglobulin heavy chain locus as described herein has a dissociative half-life  $(t_{1/2})$  of less than

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2 min at an acidic pH (e.g., pH of about 5.5 to about 6.0) at  $37^{\circ}$ C. In one embodiment, an antigen-binding protein comprising a heavy chain variable domain expressed by the genetically modified immunoglobulin heavy chain locus as described herein has a dissociative half-life  $(t_{1/2})$  of less than 1 min at an acidic pH (e.g., pH of about 5.5 to about 6.0) at 25° C. In one embodiment, an antigen-binding protein comprising a heavy chain variable domain expressed by the genetically modified immunoglobulin heavy chain locus as described herein has a dissociative half-life  $(t_{1/2})$  of less than 1 min at an acidic pH (e.g., pH of about 5.5 to about 6.0) at 37° C. In one embodiment, an antigen-binding protein comprising a heavy chain variable domain expressed by the genetically modified immunoglobulin locus as described herein has at least about 2-fold, at least about 3-fold, at least about 4-fold, at least about 5-fold, at least about 10-fold, at least about 15-fold, at least about 20-fold, at least about 25-fold, or at least about 30-fold decrease in dissociative half-life  $(t_{1/2})$  at an acidic pH (e.g., pH of about 5.5 to about 6.0) as compared to the dissociative half-life  $(t_{1/2})$  of the antigen-binding protein at a neutral pH (e.g., pH of about 7.0 to about 7.4).

In one embodiment, the genetically modified immunoglobulin locus described herein comprises a B cell population that, upon stimulation with an antigen of interest, is capable of producing antigen-binding proteins, e.g., antibodies, comprising a heavy chain variable domain with one or more histidine residues. The antigen-binding proteins as described herein, when administered into a subject, exhibits an increased serum half-life over a corresponding wild-type antigen-binding protein, which possesses a similar or sufficiently similar amino acid sequence that encodes the heavy chain variable domain but does not comprise a histidine residue in the heavy chain variable domain. In some embodiments, the antigen-binding protein described herein exhibits an increased serum half-life that is at least about 2-fold, at least about 5-fold, at least about 10-fold, at least about 15-fold, at least about 20-fold higher than the corresponding wild-type antigen-binding protein, which possesses a similar or sufficiently similar amino acid sequence that encodes the heavy chain variable domain but does not comprise a histidine residue in the heavy chain variable domain.

In one embodiment, an antigen-binding protein comprising a heavy chain variable domain expressed by the genetically modified immunoglobulin locus as described herein is characterized by improved pH-dependent recyclability, enhanced serum half-life, or both as compared with a wild-type antigen-binding protein without the genetic modification as described herein.

In one aspect, a genetically modified immunoglobulin locus in a germline genome of a non-human animal is provided comprising an unrearranged human heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence, wherein the human unrearranged heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence comprises a substitution of at least one endogenous non-histidine codon with a histidine codon.

In one embodiment, the non-human animal is a mammal, including a rodent, e.g., a mouse, a rat, or a hamster.

In one embodiment, 2 or more, 3 or more, 4 or more, 5 or more, 6 or more, 7 or more, 8 or more, 9 or more, 10 or more, 11 or more, 12 or more, 13 or more, 14 or more, 15 or more, 16 or more, 17 or more, 18 or more, 19 or more, 20 or more, 21 or more, 22 or more, 23 or more, 24 or more, 25 or more, 26 or more, 27 or more, 28 or more, 29 or more, 30 or more, 31 or more, 32 or more, 33 or more, 34 or more, 35 or more, 36 or more, 37 or more, 38 or more, 39 or more, 40 or more, 41 or more, 42 or more, 43 or more, 44 or more, 45 or more, 46 or more, 47 or more, 48 or more, 49 or more, 50 or more,

51 or more, 52 or more, 53 or more, 54 or more, 55 or more, 56 or more, 57 or more, 58 or more, 59 or more, 60 or more, or 61 or more of the endogenous non-histidine codons are replaced with histidine codons.

In one embodiment, the endogenous non-histone codon encodes the amino acid selected from Y, N, D, Q, S, W, and R.

In one embodiment, the substituted histidine codon is present in an unrearranged heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence that encodes an immunoglobulin variable domain selected from an N-terminal region, a loop 4 region, a CDR1, a CDR2, a CDR3, a combination thereof.

In one embodiment, the substituted histidine codon is present in an unrearranged heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence that encodes a complementary determining region (CDR) selected from a CDR1, a CDR2, a CDR3, and a combination thereof.

In one embodiment, the substituted histidine codon is present in an unrearranged heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence that encodes a frame region (FR) selected 20 from FR1, FR2, FR3, FR4, and a combination thereof.

In one embodiment, the unrearranged heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence comprises a genetically modified human  $\mathbf{V}_H$  gene segment, wherein one or more endogenous non-histidine codon in at least one reading frame of the 25 human  $\mathbf{V}_H$  gene segment has been replaced with a histidine codon.

In one embodiment, the human unrearranged heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence comprises a modification that replaces at least one endogenous non-histidine 30 codon of a human  $V_H$  gene segment with a histidine codon, wherein the human  $V_H$  gene segment is selected from the group consisting of  $V_H1-2$ ,  $V_H1-3$ ,  $V_H1-8$ ,  $V_H1-18$ ,  $V_H1-24$ ,  $V_H1-45$ ,  $V_H1-46$ ,  $V_H1-58$ ,  $V_H1-69$ ,  $V_H2-5$ ,  $V_H2-26$ ,  $V_H2-70$ ,  $V_H3-7$ ,  $V_H3-9$ ,  $V_H3-11$ ,  $V_H3-13$ ,  $V_H3-15$ ,  $V_H3-16$ ,  $V_H3-20$ , 35  $V_H3-21$ ,  $V_H3-23$ ,  $V_H3-30$ ,  $V_H3-30-3$ ,  $V_H3-30-5$ ,  $V_H3-35$ ,  $V_H3-35$ ,  $V_H3-38$ ,  $V_H3-43$ ,  $V_H3-49$ ,  $V_H3-53$ ,  $V_H3-66$ ,  $V_H3-72$ ,  $V_H3-73$ ,  $V_H3-74$ ,  $V_H4-4$ ,  $V_H4-28$ ,  $V_H4-30-1$ ,  $V_H4-30-2$ ,  $V_H4-30-4$ ,  $V_H4-31$ ,  $V_H4-34$ ,  $V_H4-39$ ,  $V_H4-59$ ,  $V_H4-61$ ,  $V_H5-51$ ,  $V_H6-1$ ,  $V_H7-4-1$ ,  $V_H7-81$ , and a 40 combination thereof.

In one embodiment, the human unrearranged heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence comprises a genetically modified human  $J_H$  gene segment, wherein one or more endogenous non-histidine codon in at least one reading frame 45 of the human  $J_H$  gene segment has been replaced with a histidine codon.

In one embodiment, the human unrearranged heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence comprises a modification that replaces at least one endogenous non-histidine 50 codon of a human  $J_H$  segment with a histidine codon, wherein the human  $J_H$  gene segment is selected from the group consisting of  $J_H 1$ ,  $J_H 2$ ,  $J_H 3$ ,  $J_H 4$ ,  $J_H S$ ,  $J_H 6$ , and a combination thereof.

In one embodiment, the substituted histidine codon is 55 present in a heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence that encodes part of a CDR3. In one embodiment, the part of CDR3 comprises an amino acid sequence derived from a reading frame of a genetically modified human D gene segment comprising a modification that replaces at least one 60 endogenous non-histidine codon in the reading frame with a histidine codon.

In one embodiment, the endogenous non-histidine codon that is substituted with a histidine codon encodes the amino acid selected from Y, N, D, Q, S, W, and R.

In one embodiment, the substituted histidine codon is present in at least one reading frame of the human D gene 10

segment that is most frequently observed in VELOCIM-MUNE® humanized immunoglobulin mice.

In one embodiment, the reading frame of the genetically modified human D gene segment that encodes part of CDR3 is selected from a hydrophobic frame, a stop frame, and a hydrophilic frame.

In one embodiment, the reading frame is a hydrophobic frame of a human D gene segment.

In one embodiment, the hydrophobic frame of the human D gene segment comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of D1-1 (GTTGT; SEQ ID NO: 88), D1-7 (GITGT; SEQ ID NO: 89), D1-20 (GITGT; SEQ ID NO: 89), and D1-26 (GIVGAT; SEQ ID NO: 90), and the human D gene segment further comprises a modification that replaces at least one endogenous non-histidine codon in the nucleotide sequence with a histidine codon.

In one embodiment, the hydrophobic frame of the human D gene segment comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of D2-2 (DIVVVPAAI; SEQ ID NO: 92), D2-8 (DIVLMVYAI; SEQ ID NO: 94), D2-15 (DIVVVVAAT; SEQ ID NO: 95), and D2-21 (HIVVVTAI; SEQ ID NO: 97), and the human D gene segment further comprises a modification that replaces at least one endogenous non-histidine codon in the nucleotide sequence with a histidine codon.

In one embodiment, the hydrophobic frame of the human D gene segment comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of D3-3 (ITIFGVVII; SEQ ID NO: 98), D3-9 (ITIF*LVII; SEQ ID NO: 99, SEQ ID NO:100), D3-10 (ITMVRGVII; SEQ ID NO:101), D3-16 (IMITFGGVIVI; SEQ ID NO:102), and D3-22 (ITMIVVVIT; SEQ ID NO:103), and the human D gene segment further comprises a modification that replaces at least one endogenous codon in the nucleotide sequence with a histidine codon.

In one embodiment, the hydrophobic frame of the human D gene segment comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of D4-4 (TTVT; SEQ ID NO: 105), D4-11 (TTVT; SEQ ID NO:105), D4-23 (TTVVT; SEQ ID NO: 106) and the human D gene segment further comprises a modification that replaces at least one endogenous non-histidine codon in the nucleotide sequence with a histidine codon.

In one embodiment, the hydrophobic frame of the human D gene segment comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of D5-5 (VDTAMV; SEQ ID NO: 107), D5-12 (VDIVATI; SEQ ID NO: 108), D5-18 (VDTAMV; SEQ ID NO:107), and D5-24 (VEMATI; SEQ ID NO:109), and the human D gene segment further comprises a modification that replaces at least one endogenous non-histidine codon in the nucleotide sequence with a histidine codon.

In one embodiment, the hydrophobic frame of the human D gene segment comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of D6-6 (SIAAR; SEQ ID NO: 111), D6-13 (GIAAAG; SEQ ID NO: 113), and D6-19 (GIAVAG; SEQ ID NO:115), and the human D gene segment further comprises a modification that replaces at least one endogenous non-histidine codon in the nucleotide sequence with a histidine codon.

In one embodiment, the hydrophobic frame comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes human D7-27 (LTG), and the human D gene segment further comprises a modification that replaces at least one endogenous non-histidine codon in the nucleotide sequence with a histidine codon.

In one embodiment, the reading frame is a stop reading frame of a human D gene segment.

In one embodiment, the stop reading frame of the human D gene segment comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of D1-1 (VQLER; SEQ ID NO:8), D1-7 (V*LEL), D1-20 (V*LER), D1-26 (V*WELL; SEQ ID NO: 12), and the human D gene segment further comprises a modification that replaces at least one endogenous non-histidine codon in the nucleotide sequence with a histidine codon.

In one embodiment, the stop reading frame of the human D gene segment comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of D2-2 (RIL**YQLLY; SEQ ID NO:14), D2-8 (RILY*WCMLY; SEQ ID NO:16 and SEQ ID NO: 17), 15 D2-15 (RIL*WW*LLL), and D2-21 (SILWW*LLF; SEQ ID NO:19), and the human D gene segment further comprises a modification that replaces at least one endogenous non-histidine codon in the nucleotide sequence with a histidine codon.

In one embodiment, the stop reading frame of the human D 20 gene segment comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of D3-3 (VLRFLEWLLY; SEQ ID NO:21), D3-9 (VLRYFD-WLL*; SEQ ID NO:23), D3-10 (VLLWFGELL*; SEQ ID NO:25), D3-16 (VL*LRLGELSLY; SEQ ID NO:27), and 25 D3-22 (VLL***WLLL; SEQ ID NO:29), and the human D gene segment comprises a modification that replaces at least one endogenous non-histidine codon in the nucleotide sequence with a histidine codon.

In one embodiment, the stop reading frame of the human D 30 gene segment comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of D4-4 (*LQ*L), D4-11 (*LQ*L), D4-17 (*LR*L), and D4-23 (*LRW*L), and the human D gene segment comprises a modification that replaces at least one endogenous non-histidine codon in the nucleotide sequence with a histidine codon.

In one embodiment, the stop reading frame of the human D gene segment comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting 40 of D5-5 (WIQLWL; SEQ ID NO:35); D5-12 (WI*WLRL; SEQ ID NO:37), D5-18 (WIQLWL; SEQ ID NO:35), and D5-24 (*RWLQL; SEQ ID NO:39), and the human D gene segment comprises a modification that replaces at least one endogenous non-histidine codon in the nucleotide sequence 45 with a histidine codon.

In one embodiment, the stop reading frame of the human D gene segment comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of D6-6 (V*QLV), D6-13 (V*QQLV; SEQ ID NO:41), and 50 D6-19 (V*QWLV; SEQ ID NO:43), and the human D gene segment further comprises a modification that replaces at least one endogenous non-histidine codon in the nucleotide sequence with a histidine codon.

In one embodiment, the stop reading frame of the human D 55 gene segment comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes D7-27 (*LG), and the human D gene segment further comprises a modification that replaces at least one endogenous codon of the human D gene segment in the nucleotide sequence with a histidine codon.

In one embodiment, the reading frame is a hydrophilic frame of a human D gene segment.

In one embodiment, the hydrophilic frame of the human D gene segment comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting 65 of D1-1 (YNWND; SEQ ID NO: 45), D1-7 (YNWNY; SEQ ID NO: 47), D1-20 (YNWND; SEQ ID NO: 45), and D1-26

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(YSGSYY; SEQ ID NO:49), and the human D gene segment further comprises a modification that replaces at least one endogenous codon in the nucleotide sequence with a histidine codon. In one embodiment, the hydrophilic frame comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 46, SEQ ID NO: 48, SEQ ID NO: 50, and a combination thereof.

In one embodiment, the hydrophilic frame of the human D gene segment comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of D2-2 (GYCSSTSCYT; SEQ ID NO:51), D2-8 (GYCTNGVCYT; SEQ ID NO:53), D2-15 (GYCSGGSCYS; SEQ ID NO:55), and D2-21 (AYCGGDCYS; SEQ ID NO:57), and the human D gene segment further comprises a modification that replaces at least one endogenous codon in the nucleotide sequence with a histidine codon. In one embodiment, the hydrophilic frame comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 52, SEQ ID NO: 54, SEQ ID NO: 56. SEO ID NO: 58, and a combination thereof.

In one embodiment, the hydrophilic frame of the human D gene segment comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of D3-3 (YYDFWSGYYT; SEQ ID NO:59), D3-9 (YYDILT-GYYN; SEQ ID NO:61), D3-10 (YYYGSGSYYN; SEQ ID NO:63), D3-16 (YYDYVWGSYRYT; SEQ ID NO:65), and D3-22 (YYYDSSGYYY; SEQ ID NO:67), and the human D gene segment further comprises a modification that replaces at least one endogenous codon in the nucleotide sequence with a histidine codon. In one embodiment, the hydrophilic frame comprises a nucleotide sequence encodes the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 60, SEQ ID NO: 62, SEQ ID NO: 64, SEQ ID NO: 66, SEQ ID NO: 68, and a combination thereof.

In one embodiment, the hydrophilic frame of the human D gene segment comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of D4-4 (DYSNY; SEQ ID NO:69), D4-11 (DYSNY; SEQ ID NO:69), D4-17 (DYGDY; SEQ ID NO:71), and D4-23 (DYGGNS; SEQ ID NO:73), and the human D gene segment comprises a modification that replaces at least one endogenous codon in the nucleotide sequence with a histidine codon. In one embodiment, the hydrophilic frame comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 70, SEQ ID NO: 72, SEQ ID NO: 74, and a combination thereof.

In one embodiment, the hydrophilic frame of the human D gene segment comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of D5-5 (GYSYGY; SEQ ID NO:75), D5-12 (GYSGYDY; SEQ ID NO:77), D5-18 (GYSYGY; SEQ ID NO:75), and D5-24 (RDGYNY; SEQ ID NO:79), and the human D gene segment further comprises a modification that replaces at least one endogenous codon in the nucleotide sequence with a histidine codon. In one embodiment, the hydrophilic frame comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 76, SEQ ID NO: 78, SEQ ID NO: 80, and a combination the proof of the sequence selected.

In one embodiment, the hydrophilic frame of the human D gene segment comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of D6-6 (EYSSSS; SEQ ID NO: 81), D6-13 (GYSSSWY; SEQ ID NO:83), and D6-19 (GYSSGWY; SEQ ID NO:85), and the human D gene segment further comprises a modification that replaces at least one endogenous codon in the nucleotide sequence with a histidine codon. In one embodi-

ment, the hydrophilic frame comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 82, SEQ ID NO: 84, SEQ ID NO: 86, SEQ ID NO: 76, and a combination thereof.

In one embodiment, the hydrophilic frame of the human D gene segment comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes D7-27 (NWG), and the human D gene segment further comprises a modification that replaces at least one endogenous codon in the nucleotide sequence a histidine codon.

In one embodiment, the hydrophilic frame of the human D 10 gene segment comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 46, SEQ ID NO: 48, SEQ ID NO: 50, SEQ ID NO: 52, SEQ ID NO: 54, SEQ ID NO: 56, SEQ ID NO: 58, SEQ ID NO: 60, SEQ ID NO: 62, SEQ ID NO: 64, SEQ ID 15 NO: 66, SEQ ID NO: 68, SEQ ID NO: 70, SEQ ID NO: 72, SEQ ID NO: 74, SEQ ID NO: 76, SEQ ID NO: 78, SEQ ID NO: 80, SEQ ID NO: 82, SEQ ID NO: 84, SEQ ID NO: 86, and a combination thereof.

In one embodiment, the human unrearranged immunoglobulin heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence is operably linked to a human or non-human heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence selected from a  $C_H1$ , a hinge, a  $C_H2$ , a  $C_H3$ , and a combination thereof. In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nucleotide 25 sequence comprises a  $C_H1$ , a hinge, a  $C_H2$ , and a  $C_H3$  (i.e.,  $C_H1$ -hinge- $C_H2$ - $C_H3$ ).

In one embodiment, a heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence is present at an endogenous locus (i.e., where the nucleotide sequence is located in a wild-type non-human animal) or present ectopically (e.g., at a locus different from the endogenous immunoglobulin chain locus in its genome), or within its endogenous locus, e.g., within an immunoglobulin variable locus, wherein the endogenous locus is placed or moved to a different location in the genome.

In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence comprises a modification in a  $C_H2$  or a  $C_H3$ , wherein the modification increases the affinity of the heavy chain constant region amino acid sequence to FcRn in an acidic environment (e.g., in an endosome where pH ranges from about 5.5 to about 6.0).

In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence encodes a human heavy chain constant region amino acid sequence comprising a modification at position 250 (e.g., E or Q); 250 and 428 (e.g., L or F); 252 (e.g., 45 L/Y/F/W or T), 254 (e.g., S or T), and 256 (e.g., S/R/Q/E/D or T); or a modification at position 428 and/or 433 (e.g., L/R/S/ P/Q or K) and/or 434 (e.g., H/F or Y); or a modification at position 250 and/or 428; or a modification at position 307 or 308 (e.g., 308F, V308F), and 434. In one embodiment, the 50 modification comprises a 428L (e.g., M428L) and 434S (e.g., N434S) modification; a 428L, 259I (e.g., V259I), and 308F (e.g., V308F) modification; a 433K (e.g., H433K) and a 434 (e.g., 434Y) modification; a 252, 254, and 256 (e.g., 252Y, 254T, and 256E) modification; a 250Q and 428L modification 55 (e.g., T250Q and M428L); and a 307 and/or 308 modification (e.g., 308F or 308P), wherein the modification increases the affinity of the heavy chain constant region amino acid sequence to FcRn in an acidic environment (e.g., in an endosome where pH ranges from about 5.5 to about 6.0).

In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence encodes a human  $C_{H}2$  amino acid sequence comprising at least one modification between amino acid residues at positions 252 and 257, wherein the modification increases the affinity of the human  $C_{H}2$  amino acid sequence to FcRn in an acidic environment (e.g., in an endosome where pH ranges from about 5.5 to about 6.0).

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In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence encodes a human  $C_H2$  amino acid sequence comprising at least one modification between amino acid residues at positions 307 and 311, wherein the modification increases the affinity of the  $C_H2$  amino acid sequence to FcRn in an acidic environment (e.g., in an endosome where pH ranges from about 5.5 to about 6.0).

In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence encodes a human  $C_H3$  amino acid sequence, wherein the  $C_H3$  amino acid sequence comprises at least one modification between amino acid residues at positions 433 and 436, wherein the modification increases the affinity of the  $C_H3$  amino acid sequence to FcRn in an acidic environment (e.g., in an endosome where pH ranges from about 5.5 to about 6.0).

In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence encodes a human heavy chain constant region amino acid sequence comprising a mutation selected from the group consisting of M428L, N434S, and a combination thereof.

In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence encodes a human heavy chain constant region amino acid sequence comprising a mutation selected from the group consisting of M428L, V259I, V308F, and a combination thereof.

In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence encodes a human heavy chain constant region amino acid sequence comprising an N434A mutation.

In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence encodes a human heavy chain constant region amino acid sequence comprising a mutation selected from the group consisting of M252Y, S254T, T256E, and a combination thereof.

In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence encodes a human heavy chain constant region amino acid sequence comprising a mutation selected from the group consisting of T250Q, M248L, or both.

chain constant region amino acid sequence to FcRn in an acidic environment (e.g., in an endosome where pH ranges from about 5.5 to about 6.0).

In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nucleanies and sequence comprising a mutation selected from the group consisting of H433K, N434Y, or both.

In one embodiment, the genetically modified immunoglobulin locus comprises: (1) a first allele, wherein the unrearranged human immunoglobulin heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence as described herein is operably linked to a first heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence encoding a first CH3 amino acid sequence of a human IgG selected from IgG1, IgG2, IgG4, and a combination thereof; and (2) a second allele, wherein the unrearranged human immunoglobulin heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence as described herein is operably linked to a second heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence encoding a second C_H3 amino acid sequence of the human IgG selected from IgG1, IgG2, IgG4, and a combination thereof, and wherein the second CH3 amino acid sequence comprises a modification that reduces or eliminates binding for the second CH₃ amino acid sequence to Protein A (see, for example, US 2010/0331527A1, which is incorporated by reference herein 60 in its entirety).

In one embodiment, the second CH₃ amino acid sequence comprises an H95R modification (by IMGT exon numbering; H435R by EU numbering). In one embodiment the second CH₃ amino acid sequence further comprises an Y96F modification (by IMGT exon numbering; H436F by EU). In another embodiment, the second CH₃ amino acid sequence comprises both an H95R modification (by IMGT exon num-

bering; H435R by EU numbering) and an Y96F modification (by IMGT exon numbering; H436F by EU).

In one embodiment, the second CH₃ amino acid sequence is from a modified human IgG1 and further comprises a mutation selected from the group consisting of D16E, L18M, 5 N44S, K52N, V57M, and V82I (IMGT; D356E, L38M, N384S, K392N, V397M, and V422I by EU).

In one embodiment, the second CH₃ amino acid sequence is from a modified human IgG2 and further comprises a mutation selected from the group consisting of N44S, K52N, 10 and V82I (IMGT: N384S, K392N, and V422I by EU).

In one embodiment, the second CH₃ amino acid sequence is from a modified human IgG4 and further comprises a mutation selected from the group consisting of Q15R, N44S, K52N, V57M, R69K, E79Q, and V82I (IMGT: Q355R, 15 N384S, K392N, V397M, R409K, E419Q, and V422I by EU).

In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region amino acid sequence is a non-human constant region amino acid sequence, and the heavy chain constant region amino acid sequence comprises one or more of any of the types of modi20 fications described above.

In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence is a human heavy chain constant region amino acid sequence, and the human heavy chain constant region amino acid sequence comprises one or more of any of the 25 types of modifications described above.

In one embodiment, all or substantially all endogenous  $V_H$ , D, and  $J_H$  gene segments are deleted from an immunoglobulin heavy chain locus or rendered non-functional (e.g., via insertion of a nucleotide sequence, e.g., an exogenous nucleotide sequence, in the immunoglobulin locus or via non-functional rearrangement, or inversion, of the endogenous  $V_H$ , D,  $J_H$  segments). In one embodiment, e.g., about 80% or more, about 85% or more, about 90% or more, about 95% or more, about 96% or more, about 97% or more, about 98% or more, or about 99% or more of all endogenous  $V_H$ , D, or  $J_H$  gene segments are deleted or rendered non-functional. In one embodiment, e.g., at least 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, or 99% of endogenous functional V, V, or V gene segments are deleted or rendered non-functional.

In one embodiment, the genetically modified locus comprises a modification that deletes or renders non-functional all or substantially all endogenous  $V_H$ , D, and  $J_H$  gene segments; and the genomic locus comprises a genetically modified, unrearranged human heavy chain variable region nucleotide 45 sequence comprising a substitution of at least one endogenous non-histidine codon with a histidine codon in at least one reading frame. In one embodiment, the genetically modified, unrearranged immunoglobulin heavy chain variable gene sequence is present at an endogenous location (i.e., 50 where the nucleotide sequence is located in a wild-type nonhuman animal) or present ectopically (e.g., at a locus different from the endogenous immunoglobulin chain locus in its genome), or within its endogenous locus, e.g., within an immunoglobulin variable locus, wherein the endogenous 55 locus is placed or moved to a different location in the genome.

In one embodiment, the genetically modified locus comprises an endogenous Adam6a gene, Adam6b gene, or both, and the genetic modification does not affect the expression and/or function of the endogenous Adam6a gene, Adam6b 60 gene, or both.

In one embodiment, the genetically modified locus comprises an ectopically present Adam6a gene, Adam6b gene, or both. In one embodiment, the Adam6a gene is a non-human Adam6a gene. In one embodiment, the Adam6a gene is a 65 mouse Adam6a gene. In one embodiment, the Adam6a gene is a human Adam6a gene. In one embodiment, the Adam6b

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gene is a non-human Adam6b gene. In one embodiment, the Adam6b gene is a mouse Adam6b gene. In one embodiment, the Adam6b gene is a human Adam6b gene.

In one embodiment, the genetically modified immunoglobulin locus further comprises a humanized, unrearranged  $\lambda$ and/or κ light chain variable gene sequence. In one embodiment, the humanized, unrearranged  $\lambda$  and/or  $\kappa$  light chain variable gene sequence is operably linked to an immunoglobulin light chain constant region nucleotide sequence selected from a  $\lambda$  light chain constant region nucleotide sequence and a k light chain constant region nucleotide sequence. In one embodiment, the humanized, unrearranged  $\lambda$  light chain variable region nucleotide sequence is operably linked to a  $\lambda$  light chain constant region nucleotide sequence. In one embodiment, the  $\lambda$  light chain constant region nucleotide sequence is a mouse, rat, or human sequence. In one embodiment, the humanized, unrearranged k light chain variable region nucleotide sequence is operably linked to a κ light chain constant region nucleotide sequence. In one embodiment, the κ light chain constant region nucleotide sequence is a mouse, rat, or human sequence.

In one embodiment, the genetically modified immunoglobulin locus comprises an unrearranged light chain variable gene sequence that contains at least one modification that introduces at least one histidine codon in at least one reading frame encoding a light chain variable domain. In one embodiment, the genetically modified immunoglobulin locus comprises a rearranged (e.g., a rearranged  $\lambda$  or  $\kappa$  V/J sequence) sequence that comprises one, two, three, or four codons for histidine in a light chain CDR. In one embodiment, the CDR is a selected from a CDR1, CDR2, CDR3, and a combination thereof. In one embodiment, the unrearranged or rearranged light chain variable region nucleotide sequence is an unrearranged or rearranged human  $\lambda$  or  $\kappa$  light chain variable region nucleotide sequence. In one embodiment, the unrearranged or rearranged human  $\lambda$  or  $\kappa$  light chain variable region nucleotide sequence is present at an endogenous mouse immunoglobulin light chain locus. In one embodiment, the mouse immunoglobulin light chain locus is a mouse κ locus. In one embodiment the mouse immunoglobulin light chain locus is a mouse  $\lambda$  locus.

In one embodiment, the genetically modified immunoglobulin locus as described herein is present in an immunoglobulin heavy chain locus of a mouse. In one embodiment, the genetically modified immunoglobulin locus is present in a humanized immunoglobulin heavy chain locus in a VELOCI-MMUNE® mouse.

In one embodiment, an antigen-binding protein comprising a heavy chain variable domain expressed by the genetically modified immunoglobulin heavy chain locus as described herein exhibits a weaker antigen binding at an acidic environment (e.g., at a pH of about 5.5 to about 6.0) than a corresponding wild-type heavy chain variable domain without the genetic modification described herein.

In one embodiment, an antigen-binding protein comprising a heavy chain variable domain expressed by the genetically modified immunoglobulin heavy chain locus as described herein has a dissociative half-life ( $t_{1/2}$ ) of less than 2 min at an acidic pH (e.g., pH of about 5.5 to about 6.0) at 25° C. In one embodiment, an antigen-binding protein comprising a heavy chain variable domain expressed by the genetically modified immunoglobulin heavy chain locus as described herein has a dissociative half-life ( $t_{1/2}$ ) of less than 2 min at an acidic pH (e.g., pH of about 5.5 to about 6.0) at 37° C. In one embodiment, an antigen-binding protein comprising a heavy chain variable domain expressed by the genetically modified immunoglobulin heavy chain locus as

described herein has a dissociative half-life  $(t_{1/2})$  of less than 1 min at an acidic pH (e.g., pH of about 5.5 to about 6.0) at 25° C. In one embodiment, an antigen-binding protein comprising a heavy chain variable domain expressed by the genetically modified immunoglobulin heavy chain locus as described herein has a dissociative half-life  $(t_{1/2})$  of less than 1 min at an acidic pH (e.g., pH of about 5.5 to about 6.0) at 37° C. In one embodiment, an antigen-binding protein comprising a heavy chain variable domain expressed by the genetically modified immunoglobulin locus as described herein has at least about 2-fold, at least about 3-fold, at least about 4-fold, at least about 5-fold, at least about 10-fold, at least about 15-fold, at least about 20-fold, at least about 25-fold, or at least about 30-fold decrease in dissociative half-life ( $t_{1/2}$ ) at  $_{15}$ an acidic pH (e.g., pH of about 5.5 to about 6.0) as compared to the dissociative half-life  $(t_{1/2})$  of the antigen-binding protein at a neutral pH (e.g., pH of about 7.0 to about 7.4).

In one embodiment, an antigen-binding protein comprising a heavy chain variable domain expressed by the genetically modified immunoglobulin locus as described herein is characterized by improved pH-dependent recyclability, enhanced serum half-life, or both as compared with a wild-type antigen-binding protein without the genetic modification.

In one embodiment, the genetically modified immunoglobulin locus described herein comprises a B cell population that, upon stimulation with an antigen of interest, is capable of producing antigen-binding proteins, e.g., antibodies, comprising a heavy chain variable domain comprising one or 30 more histidine residues. The antigen-binding proteins, which are produced by the genetically modified immunoglobulin locus described herein, when administered into a subject, exhibits an increased serum half-life over a corresponding wild-type antigen-binding protein, which possesses a similar 35 or sufficiently similar amino acid sequence that encodes the heavy chain variable domain but does not comprise a histidine residue in the heavy chain variable domain. In some embodiments, the antigen-binding protein described herein exhibits an increased serum half-life that is at least about 2-fold, at 40 least about 5-fold, at least about 10-fold, at least about 15-fold, at least about 20-fold higher than the corresponding wild-type antigen-binding protein, which possesses a similar or sufficiently similar amino acid sequence that encodes the heavy chain variable domain but does not comprise a histidine 45 residue in the heavy chain variable domain.

In one aspect, a genetically modified immunoglobulin locus of a non-human animal comprising a human  $V_H$ , D, and  $J_H$  gene segment is provided, wherein at least one human D gene segment has been inverted 5' to 3' with respect to a 50 corresponding wild-type sequence, and wherein at least one reading frame of the inverted human D gene segment comprises one ore more histidine codon.

In one embodiment, the non-human animal is a mammal, including a rodent, e.g., a mouse, a rat, or a hamster

In one embodiment, the genetically modified immunoglobulin locus is present in a germline genome.

In one embodiment, the genetically modified immunoglobulin locus encodes an immunoglobulin heavy chain variable domain comprising one or more, 2 or more, 3 or more, 4 or 60 more, 5 or more, 6 or more, 7 or more, 8 or more, 9 or more, 10 or more, 11 or more, 12 or more, 13 or more, 14 or more, 15 or more, 16 or more, 17 or more, 18 or more, 19 or more, 20 or more, 21 or more, 22 or more, 23 or more, 24 or more, 25 or more, 26 or more, 27 or more, 28 or more, 29 or more, 30 or more, 31 or more, 32 or more, 33 or more, or 34 or more of histidine residues.

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In one embodiment, at least two, at least three, at least four, at least five, at least six, at least seven, at least eight, at least nine, at least ten, at least eleven, at least twelve, at least thirteen, at least fourteen, at least fifteen, at least sixteen, at least seventeen, at least eighteen, at least nineteen, at least twenty, at least twenty one, at least twenty two, at least twenty three, at least twenty four, or all or substantially all of functional human D gene segments have inverted orientation with respect to corresponding wild type sequences.

In one embodiment, all or substantially all of endogenous immunoglobulin  $V_H$ , D,  $J_H$  gene segments are deleted from the immunoglobulin heavy chain locus or rendered non-functional (e.g., via insertion of a nucleotide sequence, e.g., exogenous nucleotide sequence, in the immunoglobulin locus or via non-functional rearrangement or inversion of all, or substantially all, endogenous immunoglobulin  $V_H$ , D,  $J_H$  segments), and the genetically modified immunoglobulin locus comprises a human  $V_H$ , D, and  $J_H$  gene segments, wherein at least one human D gene segment is present in an inverted orientation with respect to a corresponding wild type sequence, and wherein at least one reading frame in the inverted human D gene segment comprises at least one histidine codon.

In one embodiment, the inverted human D gene segment is operably linked to a human  $\mathbf{V}_H$  gene segment, and/or human  $\mathbf{J}_H$  gene segment

In one embodiment, the human D gene segment that is present in the inverted orientation relative to a corresponding wild type sequence is selected from the group consisting of D1-1, D1-7, D1-20, D1-26, D2-2, D2-8, D2-15, D2-21, D3-3, D3-9, D3-10, D3-16, D3-22, D4-4, D4-11, D4-17, D4-23, D5-5, D5-12, D5-18, D5-24, D6-6, D6-13, D6-19, D7-27, and a combination thereof.

In one embodiment, the human D gene segment that is present in the inverted orientation relative to a corresponding wild type sequence is a D1 gene segment selected from the group consisting of D1-1, D1-7, D1-20, D1-26, and a combination thereof.

In one embodiment, the human D gene segment that is present in the inverted orientation relative a corresponding wild type sequence is a D2 gene segment selected from the group consisting of D2-2, D2-8, D2-15, D2-21, and a combination thereof.

In one embodiment, the human D gene segment that is present in the inverted orientation relative to a corresponding wild type sequence is a D3 gene segment selected from the group consisting of D3-3, D3-9, D3-10, D3-16, D3-22, and a combination thereof.

In one embodiment, the human D gene segment that is present in the inverted orientation relative to a corresponding wild type sequence is a D4 gene segment selected from the group consisting of D4-4, D4-11, D4-17, D4-23, and a combination thereof.

In one embodiment, the human D gene segment that is present in the inverted orientation relative to a corresponding wild type sequence is a D5 gene segment selected from the group consisting of D5-5, D5-12, D5-18, D5-24, and a combination thereof.

In one embodiment, the human D gene segment that is present in the inverted orientation relative to a corresponding wild type sequence is a D6 gene segment selected from the group consisting of D6-6, D6-13, D6-19, and a combination thereof.

In one embodiment, the human D gene segment that is present in the inverted orientation relative to a corresponding wild type sequence is D7-27.

In one embodiment, the reading frame of the human D gene segment is selected from a stop reading frame, a hydrophilic reading frame, and a hydrophobic reading frame, and at least one reading frame of the inverted human D gene segment comprises one or more histidine codon.

In one embodiment, the unrearranged heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence comprising the inverted human D gene segment is operably linked to a human or non-human heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence that encodes an immunoglobulin isotype selected from IgM, IgD, 10 IgG, IgE, and IgA.

In one embodiment, the unrearranged heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence comprising the inverted human D gene segment is operably linked to a human or non-human heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence that 15 encodes an immunoglobulin isotype selected from IgM, IgD, IgG, IgE, and IgA.

In one embodiment, the human unrearranged immunoglobulin heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence is operably linked to a human or non-human heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence selected from a  $C_H1$ , a hinge, a  $C_H2$ , a  $C_H3$ , and a combination thereof. In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence comprises a  $C_H1$ , a hinge, a  $C_H2$ , and a  $C_H3$  (i.e.,  $C_H1$ -hinge- $C_H2$ - $C_H3$ ).

In one embodiment, a heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence is present at an endogenous locus (i.e., where the nucleotide sequence is located in a wild-type non-human animal) or present ectopically (e.g., at a locus different from the endogenous immunoglobulin chain locus in its genome), or within its endogenous locus, e.g., within an immunoglobulin variable locus, wherein the endogenous locus is placed or moved to a different location in the genome.

In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence comprises a modification in a  $C_H2$  or a  $C_H3$ , 35 wherein the modification increases the affinity of the heavy chain constant region amino acid sequence to FcRn in an acidic environment (e.g., in an endosome where pH ranges from about 5.5 to about 6.0).

In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence encodes a human heavy chain constant region amino acid sequence comprising a modification at position 250 (e.g., E or Q); 250 and 428 (e.g., L or F); 252 (e.g., L/Y/F/W or T), 254 (e.g., S or T), and 256 (e.g., S/R/Q/E/D or T); or a modification at position 428 and/or 433 (e.g., L/R/S/ P/Q or K) and/or 434 (e.g., H/F or Y); or a modification at position 250 and/or 428; or a modification at position 307 or 308 (e.g., 308F, V308F), and 434. In one embodiment, the modification comprises a 428L (e.g., M428L) and 434S (e.g., N434S) modification; a 428L, 259I (e.g., V259I), and 308F (e.g., V308F) modification; a 433K (e.g., H433K) and a 434 (e.g., 434Y) modification; a 252, 254, and 256 (e.g., 252Y, 254T, and 256E) modification; a 250Q and 428L modification (e.g., T250Q and M428L); and a 307 and/or 308 modification (e.g., 308F or 308P), wherein the modification increases the 55 affinity of the heavy chain constant region amino acid sequence to FcRn in an acidic environment (e.g., in an endosome where pH ranges from about 5.5 to about 6.0).

In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence encodes a human  $C_H2$  amino acid sequence 60 comprising at least one modification between amino acid residues at positions 252 and 257, wherein the modification increases the affinity of the human  $C_H2$  amino acid sequence to FcRn in an acidic environment (e.g., in an endosome where pH ranges from about 5.5 to about 6.0).

In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence encodes a human  $C_H 2$  amino acid sequence

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comprising at least one modification between amino acid residues at positions 307 and 311, wherein the modification increases the affinity of the  $C_H2$  amino acid sequence to FcRn in an acidic environment (e.g., in an endosome where pH ranges from about 5.5 to about 6.0).

In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence encodes a human  $C_H3$  amino acid sequence, wherein the  $C_H3$  amino acid sequence comprises at least one modification between amino acid residues at positions 433 and 436, wherein the modification increases the affinity of the  $C_H3$  amino acid sequence to FcRn in an acidic environment (e.g., in an endosome where pH ranges from about 5.5 to about 6.0).

In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence encodes a human heavy chain constant region amino acid sequence comprising a mutation selected from the group consisting of M428L, N434S, and a combination thereof.

In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence encodes a human heavy chain constant region amino acid sequence comprising a mutation selected from the group consisting of M428L, V259I, V308F, and a combination thereof.

In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence encodes a human heavy chain constant region amino acid sequence comprising an N434A mutation.

In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence encodes a human heavy chain constant region amino acid sequence comprising a mutation selected from the group consisting of M252Y, S254T, T256E, and a combination thereof.

In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence encodes a human heavy chain constant region amino acid sequence comprising a mutation selected from the group consisting of T250Q, M248L, or both.

In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence encodes a human heavy chain constant region amino acid sequence comprising a mutation selected from the group consisting of H433K, N434Y, or both.

In one embodiment, the genetically modified immunoglobulin locus comprises: (1) a first allele, wherein the unrearranged human immunoglobulin heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence as described herein is operably linked to a first heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence encoding a first CH3 amino acid sequence of a human IgG selected from IgG1, IgG2, IgG4, and a combination thereof; and (2) a second allele, wherein the unrearranged human immunoglobulin heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence as described herein is operably linked to a second heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence encoding a second C_H3 amino acid sequence of the human IgG selected from IgG1, IgG2, IgG4, and a combination thereof, and wherein the second CH₃ amino acid sequence comprises a modification that reduces or eliminates binding for the second CH₃ amino acid sequence to Protein A (see, for example, US 2010/0331527A1, incorporated by reference herein in its entirety).

In one embodiment, the second CH₃ amino acid sequence comprises an H95R modification (by IMGT exon numbering; H435R by EU numbering). In one embodiment the second CH₃ amino acid sequence further comprises an Y96F modification (by IMGT exon numbering; H436F by EU). In another embodiment, the second CH₃ amino acid sequence comprises both an H95R modification (by IMGT exon numbering; H435R by EU numbering) and an Y96F modification (by IMGT exon numbering; H436F by EU).

In one embodiment, the second  $\mathrm{CH_3}$  amino acid sequence is from a modified human IgG1 and further comprises a mutation selected from the group consisting of D16E, L18M, N44S, K52N, V57M, and V82I (IMGT; D356E, L38M, N384S, K392N, V397M, and V422I by EU).

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In one embodiment, the second CH₃ amino acid sequence is from a modified human IgG2 and further comprises a mutation selected from the group consisting of N44S, K52N, and V82I (IMGT: N384S, K392N, and V422I by EU).

In one embodiment, the second CH₃ amino acid sequence 10 is from a modified human IgG4 and further comprises a mutation selected from the group consisting of Q15R, N44S, K52N, V57M, R69K, E79Q, and V82I (IMGT: Q355R, N384S, K392N, V397M, R409K, E419Q, and V422I by EU).

In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region amino 15 acid sequence is a non-human constant region amino acid sequence, and the heavy chain constant region amino acid sequence comprises one or more of any of the types of modifications described above.

In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence is a human heavy chain constant region amino acid sequence, and the human heavy chain constant region amino acid sequence comprises one or more of any of the types of modifications described above.

In one embodiment, all, or substantially all, endogenous  $V_H$ , D, and  $J_H$  gene segments are deleted from an immunoglobulin heavy chain locus or rendered non-functional (e.g., via insertion of a nucleotide sequence (e.g., an exogenous nucleotide sequence) in the immunoglobulin locus or via non-functional rearrangement, or inversion, of the endogenous  $V_H$ , D,  $J_H$  segments). In one embodiment, e.g., about 80% or more, about 85% or more, about 90% or more, about 95% or more, about 96% or more of all endogenous  $V_H$ , D, or  $J_H$  gene segments are deleted or rendered non-functional. 35 In one embodiment, e.g., at least 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, or 99% of endogenous functional V, V, or V0, or V1 gene segments are deleted or rendered non-functional.

In one embodiment, the genetically modified immunoglobulin heavy chain locus comprises a modification that deletes or renders non-functional, all or substantially all, endogenous  $V_H$ , D, and  $J_H$  gene segments; and the genetically modified locus comprises an unrearranged heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence comprising at least one inverted human D gene segment as described herein wherein the unrearranged heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence is present at an endogenous location (i.e., where the nucleotide sequence is located in a wild-type non-human animal) or present ectopically (e.g., at a locus different from the endogenous immunoglobulin chain locus in its genome, or within its endogenous locus, e.g., within an immunoglobulin variable locus, wherein the endogenous locus is placed or moved to a different location in the genome).

In one embodiment, the genetically modified immunoglobulin locus comprises an endogenous Adam6a gene, Adam6b 55 gene, or both, and the genetic modification does not affect the expression and/or function of the endogenous Adam6a gene, Adam6b gene, or both.

In one embodiment, the genetically modified immunoglobulin locus comprises an ectopically present Adam6a gene, 60 Adam6b gene, or both. In one embodiment, the Adam6a gene is a non-human Adam6a gene. In one embodiment, the Adam6a gene is a mouse Adam6a gene. In one embodiment, the Adam6a gene is a human Adam6a gene. In one embodiment, the Adam6b gene is a non-human Adam6b gene. In one embodiment, the Adam6b gene is a mouse Adam6b gene. In one embodiment, the Adam6b gene is a human Adam6b gene.

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In one embodiment, the genetically modified immunoglobulin locus further comprises a humanized, unrearranged  $\lambda$ and/or κ light chain variable gene sequence. In one embodiment, the humanized, unrearranged  $\lambda$  and/or  $\kappa$  light chain variable gene sequence is operably linked to an immunoglobulin light chain constant region nucleotide sequence selected from a  $\lambda$  light chain constant region nucleotide sequence and a k light chain constant region nucleotide sequence. In one embodiment, the humanized, unrearranged  $\lambda$  light chain variable region nucleotide sequence is operably linked to a  $\lambda$  light chain constant region nucleotide sequence. In one embodiment, the  $\lambda$  light chain constant region nucleotide sequence is a mouse, rat, or human sequence. In one embodiment, the humanized, unrearranged κ light chain variable region nucleotide sequence is operably linked to a κ light chain constant region nucleotide sequence. In one embodiment, the  $\kappa$  light chain constant region nucleotide sequence is a mouse, rat, or human sequence.

In one embodiment, the genetically modified immunoglobulin locus comprises an unrearranged light chain variable gene sequence that contains at least one modification that introduces at least one histidine codon in at least one reading frame encoding a light chain variable domain. In one embodiment, the genetically modified immunoglobulin locus comprises a rearranged (e.g., a rearranged  $\lambda$  or  $\kappa$  V/J sequence) sequence that comprises one, two, three, or four codons for histidine in a light chain CDR. In one embodiment, the CDR is a selected from a CDR1, CDR2, CDR3, and a combination thereof. In one embodiment, the unrearranged or rearranged light chain variable region nucleotide sequence is an unrearranged or rearranged human  $\lambda$  or  $\kappa$  light chain variable region nucleotide sequence. In one embodiment, the unrearranged or rearranged human  $\lambda$  or  $\kappa$  light chain variable region nucleotide sequence is present at an endogenous mouse immunoglobulin light chain locus. In one embodiment, the mouse immunoglobulin light chain locus is a mouse κ locus. In one embodiment, the mouse immunoglobulin light chain locus is a mouse immunoglobulin light chain locus is a mouse  $\lambda$  locus.

In one embodiment, the genetically modified immunoglobulin locus as described herein is present in an immunoglobulin heavy chain locus of a mouse. In one embodiment, the genetically modified immunoglobulin locus is present in a humanized immunoglobulin heavy chain locus in a VELOCI-MMUNE® mouse.

In one embodiment, an antigen-binding protein comprising a heavy chain variable domain expressed by the genetically modified immunoglobulin heavy chain locus as described herein exhibits a weaker antigen binding at an acidic environment (e.g., at a pH of about 5.5 to about 6.0) than a corresponding wild-type heavy chain variable domain without the genetic modification.

In one embodiment, an antigen-binding protein comprising a heavy chain variable domain expressed by the genetically modified immunoglobulin heavy chain locus as described herein has a dissociative half-life  $(t_{1/2})$  of less than 2 min at an acidic pH (e.g., pH of about 5.5 to about 6.0) at 25° C. In one embodiment, an antigen-binding protein comprising a heavy chain variable domain expressed by the genetically modified immunoglobulin heavy chain locus as described herein has a dissociative half-life  $(t_{1/2})$  of less than 2 min at an acidic pH (e.g., pH of about 5.5 to about 6.0) at 37° C. In one embodiment, an antigen-binding protein comprising a heavy chain variable domain expressed by the genetically modified immunoglobulin heavy chain locus as described herein has a dissociative half-life  $(t_{1/2})$  of less than 1 min at an acidic pH (e.g., pH of about 5.5 to about 6.0) at 25° C. In one embodiment, an antigen-binding protein comprising a heavy chain variable domain expressed by the genetically modified immunoglobulin heavy chain locus as described herein has a dissociative half-life  $(t_{1/2})$  of less than 1 min at an acidic pH (e.g., pH of about 5.5 to about 6.0) at 37° C. In one embodiment, an antigen-binding protein comprising a heavy chain variable domain expressed by the genetically modified immunoglobulin locus as described herein has at least about 2-fold, at least about 3-fold, at least about 4-fold, at least about 5-fold, at least about 10-fold, at least about 15-fold, at least about 20-fold, at least about 25-fold, or at least about 30-fold decrease in dissociative half-life  $(t_{1/2})$  at an acidic pH (e.g., pH of about 5.5 to about 6.0) as compared to the dissociative half-life  $(t_{1/2})$  of the antigen-binding protein at a neutral pH (e.g., pH of about 7.0 to about 7.4).

In one embodiment, an antigen-binding protein comprising a heavy chain variable domain expressed by the genetically modified immunoglobulin locus as described herein is characterized by improved pH-dependent recyclability, enhanced serum half-life, or both as compared with a wild- 20 type antigen-binding protein without the genetic modification.

In one embodiment, the genetically modified immunoglobulin locus described herein comprises a B cell population that, upon stimulation with an antigen of interest, is capable of 25 producing antigen-binding proteins, e.g., antibodies, comprising a heavy chain variable domain comprising one or more histidine residues. The antigen-binding proteins as described herein when administered into a subject, exhibits an increased serum half-life over a corresponding wild-type antigen-binding protein, which possesses a similar or sufficiently similar amino acid sequence that encodes the heavy chain variable domain but does not comprise a histidine residue in the heavy chain variable domain. In some embodiments, the antigen-binding protein described herein exhibits 35 an increased serum half-life that is at least about 2-fold, at least about 5-fold, at least about 10-fold, at least about 15-fold, at least about 20-fold higher than the corresponding wild-type antigen-binding protein, which possesses a similar or sufficiently similar amino acid sequence that encodes the 40 heavy chain variable domain but does not comprise a histidine residue in the heavy chain variable domain.

In one aspect, a non-human animal is provided comprising in its germline genome a genetically modified immunoglobulin locus comprising an unrearranged human heavy chain 45 variable region nucleotide sequence, wherein the unrearranged heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence comprises an addition of least one histidine codon or a substitution of at least one endogenous non-histidine codon with a histidine codon.

In one embodiment, the non-human animal is a mammal, including a rodent, e.g., a mouse, a rat, or a hamster.

In one embodiment, the added or substituted histidine codon is present in an immunoglobulin heavy chain gene segment selected from a human  $V_H$  gene segment, a human D 55 otide sequence comprises a modification in a  $C_H$ 2 or a  $C_H$ 3, gene segment, a human  $\mathbf{J}_{H}$  gene segment, and a combination thereof. In one embodiment, the immunoglobulin heavy chain gene segment is selected from a human germline  $V_H$ gene segment, a human germline D gene segment, a human germline  $J_H$  gene segment, and a combination thereof.

In one embodiment, the human  $V_H$  gene segment is selected from the group consisting of  $V_H 1-2$ ,  $V_H 1-3$ ,  $V_H 1-8$ ,  $\begin{array}{l} \textbf{V}_{H}\textbf{1}-\textbf{18}, \textbf{V}_{H}\textbf{1}-\textbf{24}, \textbf{V}_{H}\textbf{1}-\textbf{45}, \textbf{V}_{H}\textbf{1}-\textbf{46}, \textbf{V}_{H}\textbf{1}-\textbf{58}, \textbf{V}_{H}\textbf{1}-\textbf{69}, \textbf{V}_{H}\textbf{2}-\textbf{5}, \\ \textbf{V}_{H}\textbf{2}-\textbf{26}, \textbf{V}_{H}\textbf{2}-\textbf{70}, \textbf{V}_{H}\textbf{3}-\textbf{7}, \textbf{V}_{H}\textbf{3}-\textbf{9}, \textbf{V}_{H}\textbf{3}-\textbf{11}, \textbf{V}_{H}\textbf{3}-\textbf{13}, \textbf{V}_{H}\textbf{3}-\textbf{15}, \\ \textbf{V}_{H}\textbf{3}-\textbf{16}, \textbf{V}_{H}\textbf{3}-\textbf{20}, \textbf{V}_{H}\textbf{3}-\textbf{21}, \textbf{V}_{H}\textbf{3}-\textbf{23}, \textbf{V}_{H}\textbf{3}-\textbf{30}, \textbf{V}_{H}\textbf{3}-\textbf{30}-\textbf{3}, \textbf{V}_{H}\textbf{3}-\textbf{30}, \\ \textbf{3}-\textbf{5}, \textbf{V}_{H}\textbf{3}-\textbf{33}, \textbf{V}_{H}\textbf{3}-\textbf{35}, \textbf{V}_{H}\textbf{3}-\textbf{38}, \textbf{V}_{H}\textbf{3}-\textbf{43}, \textbf{V}_{H}\textbf{3}-\textbf{48}, \textbf{V}_{H}\textbf{3}-\textbf{49}, \\ \textbf{3}-\textbf{6}, \textbf{3}-\textbf{6}, \textbf{3}-\textbf{6}, \textbf{3}-\textbf{6}, \textbf{3}-\textbf{6}, \textbf{3}-\textbf{6}, \textbf{3}-\textbf{6}, \textbf{3}-\textbf{6}, \\ \textbf{3}-\textbf{6}, \textbf{3}-\textbf{6}, \textbf{3}-\textbf{6}, \textbf{3}-\textbf{6}, \textbf{3}-\textbf{6}, \textbf{3}-\textbf{6}, \textbf{3}-\textbf{6}, \\ \textbf{3}-\textbf{6}, \textbf{3}-\textbf{6}, \textbf{3}-\textbf{6}, \textbf{3}-\textbf{6}, \textbf{3}-\textbf{6}, \textbf{3}-\textbf{6}, \\ \textbf{3}-\textbf{6}, \textbf{3}-\textbf{6}, \textbf{3}-\textbf{6}, \textbf{3}-\textbf{6}, \textbf{3}-\textbf{6}, \textbf{3}-\textbf{6}, \\ \textbf{3}-\textbf{6}, \textbf{3}-\textbf{6}, \textbf{3}-\textbf{6}, \\ \textbf{3}-\textbf{6}, \textbf{3}-\textbf{6}, \textbf{3}-\textbf{6}, \\ \textbf{3}-\textbf{6}, \textbf{3}-\textbf{6}, \textbf{3}-\textbf{6}, \\ \textbf{3}-\textbf{6}, \textbf{3}-\textbf{6}, \textbf{3}-\textbf{6}, \textbf{3}-\textbf{6}, \\ \textbf{3}-\textbf{6}, \textbf{3}-\textbf{6}, \textbf{3}-\textbf{6}, \\ \textbf{3}-\textbf{6}, \textbf{3}-\textbf{6}, \textbf{3}-\textbf{6}, \\ \textbf{3}-\textbf{6}, \textbf{3}-\textbf{6}, \textbf{3}-\textbf{6}, \\ \textbf{3}-\textbf{6}, \textbf{3}-\textbf{6}, \textbf{3}-\textbf{6}, \\ \textbf{3}-\textbf{6}, \textbf{3}-\textbf{6}, \\ \textbf{3}-\textbf{6}, \\ \textbf{3}-\textbf{6}, \\ \textbf{3}-\textbf{6}, \textbf{3}-\textbf{6}, \\ \textbf{3}-\textbf{6}, \\ \textbf{3}-\textbf{6}, \textbf{3}-\textbf{6}, \\ \textbf{3}-\textbf{6}, \textbf{3}-\textbf{6}, \\ \textbf{3}-\textbf{6}, \\ \textbf{3}-\textbf{6}, \textbf{3}-\textbf{6}, \\ \textbf{3}-\textbf{6}, \textbf{3}-\textbf{6}, \\ \textbf{3}-\textbf{6},$  $V_H$ 3-53,  $V_H$ 3-64,  $V_H$ 3-66,  $V_H$ 3-72,  $V_H$ 3-73,  $V_H$ 3-74,  $V_H$ 4-4,

 $\begin{array}{l} \mathbf{V}_{H}\mathbf{4}\text{-}28, \mathbf{V}_{H}\mathbf{4}\text{-}30\text{-}1, \mathbf{V}_{H}\mathbf{4}\text{-}30\text{-}2, \mathbf{V}_{H}\mathbf{4}\text{-}30\text{-}4, \mathbf{V}_{H}\mathbf{4}\text{-}31, \mathbf{V}_{H}\mathbf{4}\text{-}34, \\ \mathbf{V}_{H}\mathbf{4}\text{-}39, \mathbf{V}_{H}\mathbf{4}\text{-}59, \mathbf{V}_{H}\mathbf{4}\text{-}61, \mathbf{V}_{H}\mathbf{5}\text{-}51, \mathbf{V}_{H}\mathbf{6}\text{-}1, \mathbf{V}_{H}\mathbf{7}\text{-}4\text{-}1, \mathbf{V}_{H}\mathbf{7}\text{-}81, \end{array}$ and a combination thereof.

In one embodiment, the human D gene segment is selected from the group consisting of D1-1, D1-7, D1-14, D1-20, D1-26, D2-2, D2-8, D2-15, D2-21, D3-3, D3-9, D3-10, D3-16, D3-22, D4-4, D4-11, D4-17, D4-23, D5-12, D5-5, D5-18, D5-24, D6-6, D6-13, D6-19, D6-25, D7-27, and a combination thereof.

In one embodiment, the human  $J_H$  gene segment is selected from the group consisting of  $J_H1$ ,  $J_H2$ ,  $J_H3$ ,  $J_H4$ ,  $J_H5$ ,  $J_H6$ , and a combination thereof.

In one embodiment, the added or substituted histidine codon is present in the unrearranged heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence encoding an N-terminal region, a loop 4 region, a CDR1, a CDR2, a CDR3, or a combination

In one embodiment, the unrearranged heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence comprises 2 or more, 3 or more, 4 or more, 5 or more, 6 or more, 7 or more, 8 or more, 9 or more, 10 or more, 11 or more, 12 or more, 13 or more, 14 or more, 15 or more, 16 or more, 17 or more, 18 or more, 19 or more, 20 or more, 21 or more, 22 or more, 23 or more, 24 or more, or 25 or more, 26 or more, 27 or more, 28 or more, 29 or more, 30 or more, 31 or more, 32 or more, 33 or more, 34 or more 35 or more, 36 or more, 37 or more, 38 or more, 39 or more, 40 or more, 41 or more, 42 or more, 43 or more, 44 or more, 45 or more, 46 or more, 47 or more, 48 or more, 49 or more, 50 or more, 51 or more, 52 or more, 53 or more, 54 or more, 55 or more, 56 or more, 57 or more, 58 or more, 59 or more, 60 or more, or 61 or more of histidine codons.

In one embodiment, the unrearranged heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence comprising the inverted human D gene segment is operably linked to a human or non-human heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence that encodes an immunoglobulin isotype selected from IgM, IgD, IgG, IgE, and IgA.

In one embodiment, the human unrearranged immunoglobulin heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence is operably linked to a human or non-human heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence selected from a  $C_H1$ , a hinge, a  $C_H 2$ , a  $C_H 3$ , and a combination thereof. In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence comprises a  $C_H1$ , a hinge, a  $C_H2$ , and a  $C_H3$  (i.e.,  $C_H$ 1-hinge- $C_H$ 2- $C_H$ 3).

In one embodiment, a heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence is present at an endogenous locus (i.e., where the nucleotide sequence is located in a wild-type non-human animal) or present ectopically (e.g., at a locus different from the endogenous immunoglobulin chain locus in its genome), or within its endogenous locus, e.g., within an immunoglobulin variable locus, wherein the endogenous locus is placed or moved to a different location in the genome.

In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nuclewherein the modification increases the affinity of the heavy chain constant region amino acid sequence to FcRn in an acidic environment (e.g., in an endosome where pH ranges from about 5.5 to about 6.0).

In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence encodes a human heavy chain constant region amino acid sequence comprising a modification at position 250 (e.g., E or Q); 250 and 428 (e.g., L or F); 252 (e.g., L/Y/F/W or T), 254 (e.g., S or T), and 256 (e.g., S/R/Q/E/D or T); or a modification at position 428 and/or 433 (e.g., L/R/S/ P/Q or K) and/or 434 (e.g., H/F or Y); or a modification at position 250 and/or 428; or a modification at position 307 or

308 (e.g., 308F, V308F), and 434. In one embodiment, the modification comprises a 428L (e.g., M428L) and 434S (e.g., N434S) modification; a 428L, 259I (e.g., V259I), and 308F (e.g., V308F) modification; a 433K (e.g., H433K) and a 434 (e.g., 434Y) modification; a 252, 254, and 256 (e.g., 252Y,  $254T, and\,256E)\,modification;$  a  $250Q\,and\,428L\,modification$ (e.g., T250Q and M428L); and a 307 and/or 308 modification (e.g., 308F or 308P), wherein the modification increases the affinity of the heavy chain constant region amino acid sequence to FcRn in an acidic environment (e.g., in an endosome where pH ranges from about 5.5 to about 6.0).

In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence encodes a human C_H2 amino acid sequence comprising at least one modification between amino acid residues at positions 252 and 257, wherein the modification 15 increases the affinity of the human  $C_H 2$  amino acid sequence to FcRn in an acidic environment (e.g., in an endosome where pH ranges from about 5.5 to about 6.0).

In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence encodes a human C_H2 amino acid sequence 20 comprising at least one modification between amino acid residues at positions 307 and 311, wherein the modification increases the affinity of the  $C_H 2$  amino acid sequence to FcRn in an acidic environment (e.g., in an endosome where pH ranges from about 5.5 to about 6.0).

In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence encodes a human  $C_H$ 3 amino acid sequence, wherein the  $C_H3$  amino acid sequence comprises at least one modification between amino acid residues at positions 433 and 436, wherein the modification increases the affinity of the 30  $C_H$ 3 amino acid sequence to FcRn in an acidic environment (e.g., in an endosome where pH ranges from about 5.5 to about 6.0).

In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence encodes a human heavy chain constant region 35 amino acid sequence comprising a mutation selected from the group consisting of M428L, N434S, and a combination thereof.

In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nucleamino acid sequence comprising a mutation selected from the group consisting of M428L, V259I, V308F, and a combination thereof.

In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nucleamino acid sequence comprising an N434A mutation.

In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence encodes a human heavy chain constant region amino acid sequence comprising a mutation selected from the group consisting of M252Y, S254T, T256E, and a combina- 50 tion thereof.

In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence encodes a human heavy chain constant region amino acid sequence comprising a mutation selected from the group consisting of T250Q, M248L, or both.

In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence encodes a human heavy chain constant region amino acid sequence comprising a mutation selected from the group consisting of H433K, N434Y, or both.

In one embodiment, the genetically modified immunoglo- 60 bulin locus comprises: (1) a first allele, wherein the unrearranged human immunoglobulin heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence as described herein is operably linked to a first heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence encoding a first CH₃ amino acid sequence of a human IgG selected from IgG1, IgG2, IgG4, and a combination thereof; and (2) a second allele, wherein the unrearranged human

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immunoglobulin heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence as described herein is operably linked to a second heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence encoding a second C_H3 amino acid sequence of the human IgG selected from IgG1, IgG2, IgG4, and a combination thereof, and wherein the second CH₃ amino acid sequence comprises a modification that reduces or eliminates binding for the second CH₃ amino acid sequence to Protein A (see, for example, US 2010/0331527A1, which is incorporated by reference herein in its entirety).

In one embodiment, the second CH₃ amino acid sequence comprises an H95R modification (by IMGT exon numbering; H435R by EU numbering). In one embodiment the second CH₃ amino acid sequence further comprises an Y96F modification (by IMGT exon numbering; H436F by EU). In another embodiment, the second CH₃ amino acid sequence comprises both an H95R modification (by IMGT exon numbering; H435R by EU numbering) and an Y96F modification (by IMGT exon numbering; H436F by EU).

In one embodiment, the second CH₃ amino acid sequence is from a modified human IgG1 and further comprises a mutation selected from the group consisting of D16E, L18M, N44S, K52N, V57M, and V82I (IMGT; D356E, L38M, N384S, K392N, V397M, and V422I by EU).

In one embodiment, the second CH₃ amino acid sequence is from a modified human IgG2 and further comprises a mutation selected from the group consisting of N44S, K52N, and V82I (IMGT: N384S, K392N, and V422I by EU).

In one embodiment, the second CH₃ amino acid sequence is from a modified human IgG4 and further comprises a mutation selected from the group consisting of Q15R, N44S, K52N, V57M, R69K, E79Q, and V82I (IMGT: Q355R, N384S, K392N, V397M, R409K, E419Q, and V422I by EU).

In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region amino acid sequence is a non-human constant region amino acid sequence, and the heavy chain constant region amino acid sequence comprises one or more of any of the types of modifications described above.

In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence encodes a human heavy chain constant region 40 otide sequence is a human heavy chain constant region amino acid sequence, and the human heavy chain constant region amino acid sequence comprises one or more of any of the types of modifications described above.

In one embodiment, all or substantially all endogenous  $V_H$ , otide sequence encodes a human heavy chain constant region 45 D, and  $J_H$  gene segments are deleted from an immunoglobulin heavy chain locus or rendered non-functional (e.g., via insertion of a nucleotide sequence (e.g., an exogenous nucleotide sequence) in the immunoglobulin locus or via non-functional rearrangement, or inversion, of the endogenous  $V_H$ , D,  $J_H$ segments). In one embodiment, e.g., about 80% or more, about 85% or more, about 90% or more, about 95% or more, about 96% or more, about 97% or more, about 98% or more, or about 99% or more of all endogenous  $V_H$ , D, or  $J_H$  gene segments are deleted or rendered non-functional. In one 55 embodiment, e.g., at least 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, or 99% of endogenous functional V, D, or J gene segments are deleted or rendered non-functional.

> In one embodiment, the genetically modified immunoglobulin heavy chain locus comprises a modification that deletes or renders, all or substantially all, non-functional endogenous  $V_H$ , D, and  $J_H$  gene segments; and the genetically modified locus comprises an unrearranged heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence comprising one or more human  $V_H$ , D, and/or  $\mathbf{J}_H$  gene segments having one or more histidine codons, wherein the unrearranged heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence is present at an endogenous location (i.e., where the nucleotide sequence is located in a wild-type non-

human animal) or present ectopically (e.g., at a locus different from the endogenous immunoglobulin chain locus in its genome, or within its endogenous locus, e.g., within an immunoglobulin variable locus, wherein the endogenous locus is placed or moved to a different location in the 5 genome).

In one embodiment, the genetically modified immunoglobulin locus comprises an endogenous Adam6a gene, Adam6b gene, or both, and the genetic modification does not affect the expression and/or function of the endogenous Adam6a gene, 10 Adam6b gene, or both.

In one embodiment, the genetically modified immunoglobulin locus comprises an ectopically present Adam6a gene, Adam6b gene, or both. In one embodiment, the Adam6a gene is a non-human Adam6a gene. In one embodiment, the Adam6a gene is a human Adam6a gene. In one embodiment, the Adam6b gene is a non-human Adam6b gene. In one embodiment, the Adam6b gene is a human Adam6b gene.

In one embodiment, the genetically modified immunoglobulin locus further comprises a humanized, unrearranged  $\lambda$  20 and/or κ light chain variable gene sequence. In one embodiment, the humanized, unrearranged  $\lambda$  and/or  $\kappa$  light chain variable gene sequence is operably linked to an immunoglobulin light chain constant region nucleotide sequence selected from a λ light chain constant region nucleotide 25 sequence and a κ light chain constant region nucleotide sequence. In one embodiment, the humanized, unrearranged λ light chain variable region nucleotide sequence is operably linked to a  $\lambda$  light chain constant region nucleotide sequence. In one embodiment, the  $\lambda$  light chain constant region nucleotide sequence is a mouse, rat, or human sequence. In one embodiment, the humanized, unrearranged κ light chain variable region nucleotide sequence is operably linked to a κ light chain constant region nucleotide sequence. In one embodiment, the  $\kappa$  light chain constant region nucleotide sequence is 35 a mouse, rat, or human sequence.

In one embodiment, the genetically modified immunoglobulin locus comprises an unrearranged light chain variable gene sequence that contains at least one modification that introduces at least one histidine codon in at least one reading 40 frame encoding a light chain variable domain. In one embodiment, the genetically modified immunoglobulin locus comprises a rearranged (e.g., a rearranged  $\lambda$  or  $\kappa$  V/J sequence) sequence that comprises one, two, three, or four codons for histidine in a light chain CDR. In one embodiment, the CDR 45 is a selected from a CDR1, CDR2, CDR3, and a combination thereof. In one embodiment, the unrearranged or rearranged light chain variable region nucleotide sequence is an unrearranged or rearranged human  $\lambda$  or  $\kappa$  light chain variable region nucleotide sequence. In one embodiment, the unrearranged or 50 rearranged human  $\lambda$  or  $\kappa$  light chain variable region nucleotide sequence is present at an endogenous mouse immunoglobulin light chain locus. In one embodiment, the mouse immunoglobulin light chain locus is a mouse  $\kappa$  locus. In one embodiment, the mouse immunoglobulin light chain locus is 55 a mouse λ locus.

In one embodiment, the genetically modified immunoglobulin locus as described herein is present in an immunoglobulin heavy chain locus of a mouse. In one embodiment, the genetically modified immunoglobulin locus is present in a 60 humanized immunoglobulin heavy chain locus in a VELOCI-MMUNE® mouse.

In one embodiment, the non-human animal is heterozygous for the genetically modified immunoglobulin heavy chain locus, and the non-human animal is capable of expressing a human immunoglobulin heavy chain variable domain comprising at least one histidine residue derived predomi-

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nantly from the genetically modified immunoglobulin heavy chain locus as described herein.

In one embodiment, an antigen-binding protein comprising a heavy chain variable domain expressed by the genetically modified immunoglobulin heavy chain locus as described herein exhibits a weaker antigen binding at an acidic environment (e.g., at a pH of about 5.5 to about 6.0) than a corresponding wild-type heavy chain variable domain without the genetic modification.

In one embodiment, an antigen-binding protein comprising a heavy chain variable domain expressed by the genetically modified immunoglobulin heavy chain locus as described herein has a dissociative half-life  $(t_{1/2})$  of less than 2 min at an acidic pH (e.g., pH of about 5.5 to about 6.0) at 25° C. In one embodiment, an antigen-binding protein comprising a heavy chain variable domain expressed by the genetically modified immunoglobulin heavy chain locus as described herein has a dissociative half-life  $(t_{1/2})$  of less than 2 min at an acidic pH (e.g., pH of about 5.5 to about 6.0) at 37° C. In one embodiment, an antigen-binding protein comprising a heavy chain variable domain expressed by the genetically modified immunoglobulin heavy chain locus as described herein has a dissociative half-life  $(t_{1/2})$  of less than 1 min at an acidic pH (e.g., pH of about 5.5 to about 6.0) at 25° C. In one embodiment, an antigen-binding protein comprising a heavy chain variable domain expressed by the genetically modified immunoglobulin heavy chain locus as described herein has a dissociative half-life  $(t_{1/2})$  of less than 1 min at an acidic pH (e.g., pH of about 5.5 to about 6.0) at 37° C. In one embodiment, an antigen-binding protein comprising a heavy chain variable domain expressed by the genetically modified immunoglobulin locus as described herein has at least about 2-fold, at least about 3-fold, at least about 4-fold, at least about 5-fold, at least about 10-fold, at least about 15-fold, at least about 20-fold, at least about 25-fold, or at least about 30-fold decrease in dissociative half-life  $(t_{1/2})$  at an acidic pH (e.g., pH of about 5.5 to about 6.0) as compared to the dissociative half-life  $(t_{1/2})$  of the antigen-binding protein at a neutral pH (e.g., pH of about 7.0 to about 7.4).

In one embodiment, an antigen-binding protein comprising a heavy chain variable domain expressed by the genetically modified immunoglobulin locus as described herein is characterized by improved pH-dependent recyclability, enhanced serum half-life, or both as compared with a wild-type antigen-binding protein without the genetic modification.

In one embodiment, the genetically modified immunoglobulin locus described herein comprises a B cell population that, upon stimulation with an antigen of interest, is capable of producing antigen-binding proteins, e.g., antibodies, comprising a heavy chain variable domain comprising one or more histidine residues. The antigen-binding proteins as described herein when administered into a subject, exhibits an increased serum half-life over a corresponding wild-type antigen-binding protein, which possesses a similar or sufficiently similar amino acid sequence that encodes the heavy chain variable domain but does not comprise a histidine residue in the heavy chain variable domain. In some embodiments, the antigen-binding protein described herein exhibits an increased serum half-life that is at least about 2-fold, at least about 5-fold, at least about 10-fold, at least about 15-fold, at least about 20-fold higher than the corresponding wild-type antigen-binding protein, which possesses a similar or sufficiently similar amino acid sequence that encodes the heavy chain variable domain but does not comprise a histidine residue in the heavy chain variable domain.

In one aspect, a non-human animal comprising a genetically modified immunoglobulin locus is provided, wherein the genetically modified immunoglobulin locus comprises an unrearranged human heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence, and wherein the human unrearranged heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence comprises a substitution of at least one endogenous non-histidine codon with a histidine codon

In one embodiment, the non-human animal is a mammal, including a rodent, e.g., a mouse, a rat, or a hamster.

In one embodiment, 2 or more, 3 or more, 4 or more, 5 or more, 6 or more, 7 or more, 8 or more, 9 or more, 10 or more, 11 or more, 12 or more, 13 or more, 14 or more, 15 or more, 16 or more, 17 or more, 18 or more, 19 or more, 20 or more, 21 or more, 22 or more, 23 or more, 24 or more, 25 or more, 26 or more, 27 or more, 28 or more, 29 or more, 30 or more, 31 or more, 32 or more, 33 or more, 34 or more, 35 or more, 36 or more, 37 or more, 38 or more, 39 or more, 40 or more, 41 or more, 42 or more, 43 or more, 44 or more, 45 or more, 46 or more, 47 or more, 48 or more, 49 or more, 50 or more, 51 or more, 52 or more, 53 or more, 54 or more, 55 or more, 56 or more, 57 or more, 58 or more, 59 or more, 60 or more, or 61 or more of the endogenous non-histidine codons are replaced with histidine codons.

In one embodiment, the endogenous non-histone codon encodes the amino acid selected from Y, N, D, Q, S, W, and R.

In one embodiment, the substituted histidine codon is present in an unrearranged heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence that encodes an immunoglobulin variable 30 domain selected from an N-terminal region, a loop 4 region, a CDR1, a CDR2, a CDR3, a combination thereof.

In one embodiment, the substituted histidine codon is present in an unrearranged heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence that encodes a complementary determining 35 region (CDR) selected from a CDR1, a CDR2, a CDR3, and a combination thereof.

In one embodiment, the substituted histidine codon is present in an unrearranged heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence that encodes a frame region (FR) selected 40 from FR1, FR2, FR3, FR4, and a combination thereof.

In one embodiment, the unrearranged heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence comprises a genetically modified human  $\mathbf{V}_H$  gene segment, wherein one or more endogenous non-histidine codon in at least one reading frame of the 45 human  $\mathbf{V}_H$  gene segment has been replaced with a histidine codon.

In one embodiment, the human unrearranged heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence comprises a modification that replaces at least one endogenous non-histidine 50 codon of a human  $V_H$  gene segment with a histidine codon, wherein the human  $V_H$  gene segment is selected from the group consisting of  $V_H1-2$ ,  $V_H1-3$ ,  $V_H1-8$ ,  $V_H1-18$ ,  $V_H1-24$ ,  $V_H1-45$ ,  $V_H1-46$ ,  $V_H1-58$ ,  $V_H1-69$ ,  $V_H2-5$ ,  $V_H2-26$ ,  $V_H2-70$ ,  $V_H3-7$ ,  $V_H3-9$ ,  $V_H3-11$ ,  $V_H3-13$ ,  $V_H3-15$ ,  $V_H3-16$ ,  $V_H3-20$ , 55  $V_H3-21$ ,  $V_H3-23$ ,  $V_H3-30$ ,  $V_H3-30-3$ ,  $V_H3-30-5$ ,  $V_H3-35$ ,  $V_H3-36$ ,  $V_H3-37$ 

In one embodiment, the human unrearranged heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence comprises a genetically modified human  $\mathbf{J}_H$  gene segment, wherein one or more endogenous non-histidine codon in at least one reading frame of the human  $\mathbf{J}_H$  gene segment has been replaced with a histidine codon.

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In one embodiment, the human unrearranged heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence comprises a modification that replaces at least one endogenous non-histidine codon of a human  $J_H$  segment with a histidine codon, wherein the human  $J_H$  gene segment is selected from the group consisting of  $J_H 1$ ,  $J_H 2$ ,  $J_H 3$ ,  $J_H 4$ ,  $J_H S$ ,  $J_H 6$ , and a combination thereof

In one embodiment, the substituted histidine codon is present in a heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence that encodes part of a CDR3. In one embodiment, the part of CDR3 comprises an amino acid sequence derived from a reading frame of a genetically modified human D gene segment comprising a modification that replaces at least one endogenous non-histidine codon in the reading frame with a histidine codon.

In one embodiment, the endogenous non-histidine codon that is substituted with a histidine codon encodes the amino acid selected from Y, N, D, Q, S, W, and R.

In one embodiment, the substituted histidine codon is present in at least one reading frame of the human D gene segment that is most frequently observed in VELOCIM-MUNE® humanized immunoglobulin mice.

In one embodiment, the reading frame of the genetically modified human D gene segment that encodes part of CDR3 is selected from a hydrophobic frame, a stop frame, and a hydrophilic frame.

In one embodiment, the reading frame is a hydrophobic frame of a human D gene segment.

In one embodiment, the hydrophobic frame of the human D gene segment comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of D1-1 (GTTGT; SEQ ID NO: 88), D1-7 (GITGT; SEQ ID NO: 89), D1-20 (GITGT; SEQ ID NO: 89), and D1-26 (GIVGAT; SEQ ID NO:90), and the human D gene segment further comprises a modification that replaces at least one endogenous non-histidine codon in the nucleotide sequence with a histidine codon.

In one embodiment, the hydrophobic frame of the human D gene segment comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of D2-2 (DIVVVPAAI; SEQ ID NO:92), D2-8 (DIVLMVYAI; SEQ ID NO: 94), D2-15 (DIVVVVAAT; SEQ ID NO:95), and D2-21 (HIVVVTAI; SEQ ID NO: 97), and the human D gene segment further comprises a modification that replaces at least one endogenous non-histidine codon in the nucleotide sequence with a histidine codon.

In one embodiment, the hydrophobic frame of the human D gene segment comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of D3-3 (ITIFGVVII; SEQ ID NO:98), D3-9 (ITIF*LVII; SEQ ID NO:99, SEQ ID NO:100), D3-10 (ITMVRGVII; SEQ IDNO:101), D3-16 (IMITFGGVIVI; SEQ ID NO:102), and D3-22 (ITMIVVVIT; SEQ ID NO:103), and the human D gene segment further comprises a modification that replaces at least one endogenous codon in the nucleotide sequence with a histidine codon.

In one embodiment, the hydrophobic frame of the human D gene segment comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of D4-4 (TTVT; SEQ ID NO:105), D4-11 (TTVT; SEQ ID NO:105), D4-23 (TTVVT; SEQ ID NO:105), D4-23 (TTVVT; SEQ ID NO: 106) and the human D gene segment further comprises a modification that replaces at least one endogenous non-histidine codon in the nucleotide sequence with a histidine codon.

In one embodiment, the hydrophobic frame of the human D gene segment comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes

the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of D5-5 (VDTAMV; SEQ ID NO: 107), D5-12 (VDIVATI; SEQ ID NO:108), D5-18 (VDTAMV; SEQ ID NO:107), and D5-24 (VEMATI; SEQ ID NO:109), and the human D gene segment further comprises a modification that replaces at least one endogenous non-histidine codon in the nucleotide sequence with a histidine codon.

In one embodiment, the hydrophobic frame of the human D gene segment comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of D6-6 (SIAAR; SEQ ID NO:111), D6-13 (GIAAAG; SEQ ID NO:113), and D6-19 (GIAVAG; SEQ ID NO:115), and the human D gene segment further comprises a modification that replaces at least one endogenous non-histidine codon in the nucleotide sequence with a histidine codon.

In one embodiment, the hydrophobic frame comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes human D7-27 (LTG), and the human D gene segment further comprises a modification that replaces at least one endogenous non-histidine codon in 20 the nucleotide sequence with a histidine codon.

In one embodiment, the reading frame is a stop reading frame of a human D gene segment.

In one embodiment, the stop reading frame of the human D gene segment comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes 25 the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of D1-1 (VQLER; SEQ ID NO:8), D1-7 (V*LEL), D1-20 (V*LER), D1-26 (V*WELL; SEQ ID NO:12), and the human D gene segment further comprises a modification that replaces at least one endogenous non-histidine codon in the 30 nucleotide sequence with a histidine codon.

In one embodiment, the stop reading frame of the human D gene segment comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of D2-2 (RIL**YQLLY; SEQ ID NO:14), D2-8 35 (RILY*WCMLY; SEQ ID NO:16 and SEQ ID NO: 17), D2-15 (RIL*WW*LLL), and D2-21 (SILWW*LLF; SEQ ID NO:19), and the human D gene segment further comprises a modification that replaces at least one endogenous non-histidine codon in the nucleotide sequence with a histidine codon. 40

In one embodiment, the stop reading frame of the human D gene segment comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of D3-3 (VLRFLEWLLY; SEQ ID NO:21), D3-9 (VLRYFD-WLL*; SEQ ID NO:23), D3-10 (VLLWFGELL*; SEQ ID 45 NO:25), D3-16 (VL*LRLGELSLY; SEQ ID NO:27), and D3-22 (VLL***WLLL; SEQ ID NO:29), and the human D gene segment comprises a modification that replaces at least one endogenous non-histidine codon in the nucleotide sequence with a histidine codon.

In one embodiment, the stop reading frame of the human D gene segment comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of D4-4 (*LQ*L), D4-11 (*LQ*L), D4-17 (*LR*L), and D4-23 (*LRW*L), and the human D gene segment comprises a modification that replaces at least one endogenous non-histidine codon in the nucleotide sequence with a histidine codon.

In one embodiment, the stop reading frame of the human D gene segment comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes 60 the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of D5-5 (WIQLWL; SEQ ID NO:35); D5-12 (WI*WLRL; SEQ ID NO:37), D5-18 (WIQLWL; SEQ ID NO:35), and D5-24 (*RWLQL; SEQ ID NO:39), and the human D gene segment comprises a modification that replaces at least one 65 endogenous non-histidine codon in the nucleotide sequence with a histidine codon.

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In one embodiment, the stop reading frame of the human D gene segment comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of D6-6 (V*QLV), D6-13 (V*QQLV; SEQ ID NO:41), and D6-19 (V*QWLV; SEQ ID NO:43), and the human D gene segment further comprises a modification that replaces at least one endogenous non-histidine codon in the nucleotide sequence with a histidine codon.

In one embodiment, the stop reading frame of the human D gene segment comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes D7-27 (*LG), and the human D gene segment further comprises a modification that replaces at least one endogenous codon of the human D gene segment in the nucleotide sequence with a histidine codon.

In one embodiment, the reading frame is a hydrophilic frame of a human D gene segment.

In one embodiment, the hydrophilic frame of the human D gene segment comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of D1-1 (YNWND; SEQ ID NO: 45), D1-7 (YNWNY; SEQ ID NO: 47), D1-20 (YNWND; SEQ ID NO: 45), and D1-26 (YSGSYY; SEQ ID NO:49), and the human D gene segment further comprises a modification that replaces at least one endogenous codon in the nucleotide sequence with a histidine codon. In one embodiment, the hydrophilic frame comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 46, SEQ ID NO: 48, SEQ ID NO: 50, and a combination thereof.

In one embodiment, the hydrophilic frame of the human D gene segment comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of D2-2 (GYCSSTSCYT; SEQ ID NO:51), D2-8 (GYCTNGVCYT; SEQ ID NO: 53), D2-15 (GYCSGGSCYS; SEQ ID NO:55), and D2-21 (AYCGGDCYS; SEQ ID NO:57), and the human D gene segment further comprises a modification that replaces at least one endogenous codon in the nucleotide sequence with a histidine codon. In one embodiment, the hydrophilic frame comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 52, SEQ ID NO: 54, SEQ ID NO: 56, SEQ ID NO: 58, and a combination thereof.

In one embodiment, the hydrophilic frame of the human D gene segment comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of D3-3 (YYDFWSGYYT; SEQ ID NO:59), D3-9 (YYDILT-GYYN; SEQ ID NO:61), D3-10 (YYYGSGSYYN; SEQ ID NO:63), D3-16 (YYDYVWGSYRYT; SEQ ID NO:65), and D3-22 (YYYDSSGYYY; SEQ ID NO:67), and the human D gene segment further comprises a modification that replaces at least one endogenous codon in the nucleotide sequence with a histidine codon. In one embodiment, the hydrophilic frame comprises a nucleotide sequence encodes the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 60, SEQ ID NO: 62, SEQ ID NO: 64, SEQ ID NO: 66, SEQ ID NO: 68, and a combination thereof.

In one embodiment, the hydrophilic frame of the human D gene segment comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of D4-4 (DYSNY; SEQ ID NO:69), D4-11 (DYSNY; SEQ ID NO:69), D4-17 (DYGDY; SEQ ID NO:71), and D4-23 (DYGGNS; SEQ ID NO:73), and the human D gene segment comprises a modification that replaces at least one endogenous codon in the nucleotide sequence with a histidine codon. In one embodiment, the hydrophilic frame comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 70, SEQ ID NO: 72, SEQ ID NO: 74, and a combination thereof.

In one embodiment, the hydrophilic frame of the human D gene segment comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of D5-5 (GYSYGY; SEQ ID NO:75), D5-12 (GYSGYDY; SEQ ID NO:77), D5-18 (GYSYGY; SEQ ID NO:75), and D5-24 (RDGYNY; SEQ ID NO:79), and the human D gene segment further comprises a modification that replaces at least one endogenous codon in the nucleotide sequence with a histidine codon. In one embodiment, the hydrophilic frame comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 76, SEQ ID NO: 78, SEQ ID NO: 80, and a combination thereof

In one embodiment, the hydrophilic frame of the human D gene segment comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of D6-6 (EYSSSS; SEQ ID NO: 81), D6-13 (GYSSSWY; SEQ ID NO:85), and the human D gene segment further comprises a modification that replaces at least one endogenous codon in the cation that replaces at least one endogenous codon in the nucleotide sequence with a histidine codon. In one embodiment, the hydrophilic frame comprises a nucleotide sequence to FcRn in an acidic environment (e.g., in an endosome where pH ranges from about 5.5 to about 6.0).

In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence to FcRn in an acidic environment (e.g., in an endosome where pH ranges from about 5.5 to about 6.0).

In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence encodes a human C_H2 amino acid sequence comprising at least one modification between amino acid

In one embodiment, the hydrophilic frame of the human D gene segment comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes D7-27 (NWG), and the human D gene segment further comprises a modification that replaces at least one endogenous codon in the nucleotide sequence a histidine codon.

In one embodiment, the hydrophilic frame of the human D gene segment comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 46, SEQ ID NO: 48, SEQ ID NO: 50, SEQ ID NO: 52, SEQ ID NO: 54, SEQ ID NO: 56, SEQ ID NO: 58, SEQ ID NO: 60, SEQ ID NO: 62, SEQ ID NO: 64, SEQ ID NO: 66, SEQ ID NO: 68, SEQ ID NO: 70, SEQ ID NO: 72, SEQ ID NO: 74, SEQ ID NO: 76, SEQ ID NO: 78, SEQ ID NO: 80, SEQ ID NO: 82, SEQ ID NO: 84, SEQ ID NO: 86, and a combination thereof.

In one embodiment, the unrearranged heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence comprising the inverted human D gene segment is operably linked to a human or non-human 45 heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence that encodes an immunoglobulin isotype selected from IgM, IgD, IgG, IgE, and IgA.

In one embodiment, the human unrearranged immunoglobulin heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence is 50 operably linked to a human or non-human heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence selected from a  $C_H1$ , a hinge, a  $C_H2$ , a  $C_H3$ , and a combination thereof. In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence comprises a  $C_H1$ , a hinge, a  $C_H2$ , and a  $C_H3$  (i.e., 55  $C_H1$ -hinge- $C_H2$ - $C_H3$ ).

In one embodiment, a heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence is present at an endogenous locus (i.e., where the nucleotide sequence is located in a wild-type non-human animal) or present ectopically (e.g., at a locus different from 60 the endogenous immunoglobulin chain locus in its genome, or within its endogenous locus, e.g., within an immunoglobulin variable locus, wherein the endogenous locus is placed or moved to a different location in the genome).

In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence comprises a modification in a  $C_H2$  or a  $C_H3$ , wherein the modification increases the affinity of the heavy

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chain constant region amino acid sequence to FcRn in an acidic environment (e.g., in an endosome where pH ranges from about 5.5 to about 6.0).

In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence encodes a human heavy chain constant region amino acid sequence comprising a modification at position 250 (e.g., E or Q); 250 and 428 (e.g., L or F); 252 (e.g., L/Y/F/W or T), 254 (e.g., S or T), and 256 (e.g., S/R/Q/E/D or T); or a modification at position 428 and/or 433 (e.g., L/R/S/ P/Q or K) and/or 434 (e.g., H/F or Y); or a modification at position 250 and/or 428; or a modification at position 307 or 308 (e.g., 308F, V308F), and 434. In one embodiment, the modification comprises a 428L (e.g., M428L) and 434S (e.g., N434S) modification; a 428L, 259I (e.g., V259I), and 308F (e.g., V308F) modification; a 433K (e.g., H433K) and a 434 (e.g., 434Y) modification; a 252, 254, and 256 (e.g., 252Y, 254T, and 256E) modification; a 250Q and 428L modification (e.g., T250Q and M428L); and a 307 and/or 308 modification (e.g., 308F or 308P), wherein the modification increases the affinity of the heavy chain constant region amino acid sequence to FcRn in an acidic environment (e.g., in an endosome where pH ranges from about 5.5 to about 6.0).

In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence encodes a human  $C_{H2}$  amino acid sequence comprising at least one modification between amino acid residues at positions 252 and 257, wherein the modification increases the affinity of the human  $C_{H2}$  amino acid sequence to FcRn in an acidic environment (e.g., in an endosome where pH ranges from about 5.5 to about 6.0).

In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence encodes a human  $C_H2$  amino acid sequence comprising at least one modification between amino acid residues at positions 307 and 311, wherein the modification increases the affinity of the  $C_H2$  amino acid sequence to FcRn in an acidic environment (e.g., in an endosome where pH ranges from about 5.5 to about 6.0).

In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence encodes a human  $C_H3$  amino acid sequence, wherein the  $C_H3$  amino acid sequence comprises at least one modification between amino acid residues at positions 433 and 436, wherein the modification increases the affinity of the  $C_H3$  amino acid sequence to FcRn in an acidic environment (e.g., in an endosome where pH ranges from about 5.5 to about 6.0).

In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence encodes a human heavy chain constant region amino acid sequence comprising a mutation selected from the group consisting of M428L, N434S, and a combination thereof.

In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence encodes a human heavy chain constant region amino acid sequence comprising a mutation selected from the group consisting of M428L, V259I, V308F, and a combination thereof.

In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence encodes a human heavy chain constant region amino acid sequence comprising an N434A mutation.

In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence encodes a human heavy chain constant region amino acid sequence comprising a mutation selected from the group consisting of M252Y, S254T, T256E, and a combination thereof.

In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence encodes a human heavy chain constant region amino acid sequence comprising a mutation selected from the group consisting of T250Q, M248L, or both.

In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence encodes a human heavy chain constant region amino acid sequence comprising a mutation selected from the group consisting of H433K, N434Y, or both.

In one embodiment, the genetically modified immunoglo- 5 bulin locus comprises: (1) a first allele, wherein the unrearranged human immunoglobulin heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence as described herein is operably linked to a first heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence encoding a first CH₃ amino acid sequence of a human IgG selected from IgG1, IgG2, IgG4, and a combination thereof; and (2) a second allele, wherein the unrearranged human immunoglobulin heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence as described herein is operably linked to a second heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence encoding a 15 second C_H3 amino acid sequence of the human IgG selected from IgG1, IgG2, IgG4, and a combination thereof, and wherein the second CH₃ amino acid sequence comprises a modification that reduces or eliminates binding for the second CH₂ amino acid sequence to Protein A (see, for example, US 20 2010/0331527A1, which is incorporated by reference herein in its entirety).

In one embodiment, the second CH₃ amino acid sequence comprises an H95R modification (by IMGT exon numbering; H435R by EU numbering). In one embodiment the second 25 CH₃ amino acid sequence further comprises an Y96F modification (by IMGT exon numbering; H436F by EU). In another embodiment, the second CH₃ amino acid sequence comprises both an H95R modification (by IMGT exon numbering; H435R by EU numbering) and an Y96F modification 30 (by IMGT exon numbering; H436F by EU).

In one embodiment, the second CH₃ amino acid sequence is from a modified human IgG1 and further comprises a mutation selected from the group consisting of D16E, L18M, N44S, K52N, V57M, and V82I (IMGT; D356E, L38M, 35 N384S, K392N, V397M, and V422I by EU).

In one embodiment, the second  ${\rm CH_3}$  amino acid sequence is from a modified human IgG2 and further comprises a mutation selected from the group consisting of N44S, K52N, and V82I (IMGT: N384S, K392N, and V422I by EU).

In one embodiment, the second CH₃ amino acid sequence is from a modified human IgG4 and further comprises a mutation selected from the group consisting of Q15R, N44S, K52N, V57M, R69K, E79Q, and V82I (IMGT: Q355R, N384S, K392N, V397M, R409K, E419Q, and V422I by EU). 45

In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region amino acid sequence is a non-human constant region amino acid sequence, and the heavy chain constant region amino acid sequence comprises one or more of any of the types of modifications described above.

In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence is a human heavy chain constant region amino acid sequence, and the human heavy chain constant region amino acid sequence comprises one or more of any of the types of modifications described above.

In one embodiment, all, or substantially all, endogenous  $V_H$ , D, and  $J_H$  gene segments are deleted from an immunoglobulin heavy chain locus or rendered non-functional (e.g., via insertion of a nucleotide sequence (e.g., an exogenous nucleotide sequence) in the immunoglobulin locus or via 60 non-functional rearrangement, or inversion, of the endogenous  $V_H$ , D,  $J_H$  segments). In one embodiment, e.g., about 80% or more, about 85% or more, about 90% or more, about 95% or more, about 96% or more of all endogenous  $V_H$ , D, 65 or  $J_H$  gene segments are deleted or rendered non-functional. In one embodiment, e.g., at least 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, or

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99% of endogenous functional V, D, or J gene segments are deleted or rendered non-functional.

In one embodiment, the genetically modified locus comprises a modification that deletes or renders non-functional all or substantially all endogenous  $V_H$ , D, and  $J_H$  gene segments; and the genomic locus comprises the genetically modified, unrearranged human heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence comprising a substitution of at least one endogenous non-histidine codon with a histidine codon in at least one reading frame. In one embodiment, the genetically modified, unrearranged immunoglobulin heavy chain variable gene sequence is present at an endogenous location (i.e., where the nucleotide sequence is located in a wild-type nonhuman animal) or present ectopically (e.g., at a locus different from the endogenous immunoglobulin chain locus in its genome), or within its endogenous locus, e.g., within an immunoglobulin variable locus, wherein the endogenous locus is placed or moved to a different location in the genome.

In one embodiment, the genetically modified locus comprises an endogenous Adam6a gene, Adam6b gene, or both, and the genetic modification does not affect the expression and/or function of the endogenous Adam6a gene, Adam6b gene, or both.

In one embodiment, the genetically modified locus comprises an ectopically present Adam6a gene, Adam6b gene, or both. In one embodiment, the Adam6a gene is a non-human Adam6a gene. In one embodiment, the Adam6a gene is a mouse Adam6a gene. In one embodiment, the Adam6a gene is a human Adam6a gene. In one embodiment, the Adam6b gene is a non-human Adam6b gene. In one embodiment, the Adam6b gene is a mouse Adam6b gene. In one embodiment, the Adam6b gene is a human Adam6b gene.

In one embodiment, the genetically modified immunoglobulin locus further comprises a humanized, unrearranged  $\lambda$ and/or κ light chain variable gene sequence. In one embodiment, the humanized, unrearranged  $\lambda$  and/or  $\kappa$  light chain variable gene sequence is operably linked to an immunoglobulin light chain constant region nucleotide sequence selected from a  $\lambda$  light chain constant region nucleotide sequence and a k light chain constant region nucleotide sequence. In one embodiment, the humanized, unrearranged  $\lambda$  light chain variable region nucleotide sequence is operably linked to a  $\lambda$  light chain constant region nucleotide sequence. In one embodiment, the  $\lambda$  light chain constant region nucleotide sequence is a mouse, rat, or human sequence. In one embodiment, the humanized, unrearranged κ light chain variable region nucleotide sequence is operably linked to a κ light chain constant region nucleotide sequence. In one embodiment, the  $\kappa$  light chain constant region nucleotide sequence is a mouse, rat, or human sequence.

In one embodiment, the genetically modified immunoglobulin locus comprises an unrearranged light chain variable gene sequence that contains at least one modification that introduces at least one histidine codon in at least one reading 55 frame encoding a light chain variable domain. In one embodiment, the genetically modified immunoglobulin locus comprises a rearranged (e.g., rearranged  $\lambda$  or  $\kappa$  V/J sequence) sequence that comprises one, two, three, or four codons for histidine in a light chain CDR. In one embodiment, the CDR is a selected from a CDR1, CDR2, CDR3, and a combination thereof. In one embodiment, the unrearranged or rearranged light chain variable region nucleotide sequence is an unrearranged or rearranged human  $\lambda$  or  $\kappa$  light chain variable region nucleotide sequence. In one embodiment, the unrearranged or rearranged human  $\lambda$  or  $\kappa$  light chain variable region nucleotide sequence is present at an endogenous mouse immunoglobulin light chain locus. In one embodiment, the mouse

immunoglobulin light chain locus is a mouse  $\kappa$  locus. In one embodiment the mouse immunoglobulin light chain locus is a mouse  $\lambda$  locus

In one embodiment, the genetically modified immunoglobulin locus as described herein is present in an immunoglobulin heavy chain locus of a mouse. In one embodiment, the genetically modified immunoglobulin locus is present in a humanized immunoglobulin heavy chain locus in a VELOCI-MMUNE® mouse.

In one embodiment, an antigen-binding protein comprising a heavy chain variable domain expressed by the genetically modified immunoglobulin heavy chain locus as described herein exhibits a weaker antigen binding at an acidic environment (e.g., at a pH of about 5.5 to about 6.0) than a corresponding wild-type heavy chain variable domain 15 without the genetic modification.

In one embodiment, an antigen-binding protein comprising a heavy chain variable domain expressed by the genetically modified immunoglobulin heavy chain locus as described herein has a dissociative half-life  $(t_{1/2})$  of less than 20 2 min at an acidic pH (e.g., pH of about 5.5 to about 6.0) at 25° C. In one embodiment, an antigen-binding protein comprising a heavy chain variable domain expressed by the genetically modified immunoglobulin heavy chain locus as described herein has a dissociative half-life  $(t_{1/2})$  of less than 25 2 min at an acidic pH (e.g., pH of about 5.5 to about 6.0) at 37° C. In one embodiment, an antigen-binding protein comprising a heavy chain variable domain expressed by the genetically modified immunoglobulin heavy chain locus as described herein has a dissociative half-life  $(t_{1/2})$  of less than 30 1 min at an acidic pH (e.g., pH of about 5.5 to about 6.0) at 25° C. In one embodiment, an antigen-binding protein comprising a heavy chain variable domain expressed by the genetically modified immunoglobulin heavy chain locus as described herein has a dissociative half-life  $(t_{1/2})$  of less than 35 1 min at an acidic pH (e.g., pH of about 5.5 to about 6.0) at 37° C. In one embodiment, an antigen-binding protein comprising a heavy chain variable domain expressed by the genetically modified immunoglobulin locus as described herein has at least about 2-fold, at least about 3-fold, at least about 40 4-fold, at least about 5-fold, at least about 10-fold, at least about 15-fold, at least about 20-fold, at least about 25-fold, or at least about 30-fold decrease in dissociative half-life  $(t_{1/2})$  at an acidic pH (e.g., pH of about 5.5 to about 6.0) as compared to the dissociative half-life  $(t_{1/2})$  of the antigen-binding pro- 45 tein at a neutral pH (e.g., pH of about 7.0 to about 7.4).

In one embodiment, an antigen-binding protein comprising a heavy chain variable domain expressed by the genetically modified immunoglobulin locus as described herein is characterized by improved pH-dependent recyclability, 50 enhanced serum half-life, or both as compared with a wild-type antigen-binding protein without the genetic modification.

In one embodiment, the genetically modified immunoglobulin locus as described herein comprises a B cell population 55 that, upon stimulation with an antigen of interest, is capable of producing antigen-binding proteins, e.g., antibodies, comprising a heavy chain variable domain comprising one or more histidine residues. The antigen-binding proteins as described herein, when administered into a subject, exhibits an increased serum half-life over a corresponding wild-type antigen-binding protein, which possesses a similar or sufficiently similar amino acid sequence that encodes the heavy chain variable domain but does not comprise a histidine residue in the heavy chain variable domain. In some embodiments, the antigen-binding protein described herein exhibits an increased serum half-life that is at least about 2-fold, at

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least about 5-fold, at least about 10-fold, at least about 15-fold, at least about 20-fold higher than the corresponding wild-type antigen-binding protein, which possesses a similar or sufficiently similar amino acid sequence that encodes the heavy chain variable domain but does not comprise a histidine residue in the heavy chain variable domain.

In one embodiment, the non-human animal is heterozygous for the genetically modified immunoglobulin heavy chain locus, and the non-human animal is capable of expressing the human immunoglobulin heavy chain variable domain comprising at least one histidine residue derived predominantly from the genetically modified immunoglobulin heavy chain locus as described herein.

In one aspect, a non-human animal comprising a genetically modified immunoglobulin locus comprising a human  $V_H$ , D, and  $J_H$  gene segment is provided, wherein at least one of the human D gene segment has been inverted 5' to 3' with respect to a corresponding wild-type sequence, and wherein at least one reading frame of the inverted human D gene segment comprises a histidine codon.

In one embodiment, the non-human animal is a mammal, including a rodent, e.g., a mouse, a rat, or a hamster

In one embodiment, the genetically modified immunoglobulin locus is present in a germline genome.

In one embodiment, wherein the reading frame of the inverted human D gene segment comprises one or more, 2 or more, 3 or more, 4 or more, 5 or more, 6 or more, 7 or more, 8 or more, 9 or more, 10 or more, 11 or more, 12 or more, 13 or more, 14 or more, 15 or more, 16 or more, 17 or more, 18 or more, 19 or more, 20 or more, 21 or more, 22 or more, 23 or more, 24 or more, 25 or more, 26 or more, 27 or more, 28 or more, 29 or more, 30 or more, 31 or more, 32 or more, 33 or more, or 34 or more of histidine codons.

In one embodiment, at least two, at least three, at least four, at least five, at least six, at least seven, at least eight, at least nine, at least ten, at least eleven, at least twelve, at least thirteen, at least fourteen, at least fifteen, at least sixteen, at least seventeen, at least eighteen, at least nineteen, at least twenty, at least twenty one, at least twenty two, at least twenty three, at least twenty four, or all or substantially all of functional human D gene segments have inverted orientation with respect to corresponding wild type sequences.

In one embodiment, all or substantially all of endogenous immunoglobulin  $V_H$ , D,  $J_H$  gene segments are deleted from the immunoglobulin heavy chain locus or rendered non-functional (e.g., via insertion of a nucleotide sequence, e.g., exogenous nucleotide sequence, in the immunoglobulin locus or via non-functional rearrangement or inversion of all, or substantially all, endogenous immunoglobulin  $V_H$ , D,  $J_H$  segments), and the genetically modified immunoglobulin locus comprises a human  $V_H$ , D, and  $J_H$  gene segments, wherein at least one of the human D gene segment is present in an inverted orientation with respect to corresponding wild type sequences, and wherein at least one reading frame of the inverted human D gene segment comprises at least one histidine codon.

In one embodiment, the inverted human D gene segment is operably linked to a human  $\mathbf{V}_H$  gene segment, and/or human  $\mathbf{J}_H$  gene segment

In one embodiment, the human D gene segment that is present in the inverted orientation relative to a corresponding wild type sequence is selected from the group consisting of D1-1,D1-7,D1-20,D1-26,D2-2,D2-8,D2-15,D2-21,D3-3,D3-9,D3-10,D3-16,D3-22,D4-4,D4-11,D4-17,D4-23,D5-5,D5-12,D5-18,D5-24,D6-6,D6-13,D6-19,D7-27,and a combination thereof.

In one embodiment, the human D gene segment that is present in the inverted orientation relative to a corresponding wild type sequence is a D1 gene segment selected from the group consisting of D1-1, D1-7, D1-20, D1-26, and a combination thereof.

In one embodiment, the human D gene segment that is present in the inverted orientation relative to a corresponding wild type sequences is a D2 gene segment selected from the group consisting of D2-2, D2-8, D2-15, D2-21, and a combination thereof.

In one embodiment, the human D gene segment that is present in the inverted orientation relative to a corresponding wild type sequence is a D3 gene segment selected from the group consisting of D3-3, D3-9, D3-10, D3-16, D3-22, and a combination thereof.

In one embodiment, the human D gene segment that is present in the inverted orientation relative to a corresponding wild type sequence is a D4 gene segment selected from the group consisting of D4-4, D4-11, D4-17, D4-23, and a combination thereof.

In one embodiment, the human D gene segment that is present in the inverted orientation relative to a corresponding wild type sequence is a D5 gene segment selected from the group consisting of D5-5, D5-12, D5-18, D5-24, and a combination thereof.

In one embodiment, the human D gene segment that is present in the inverted orientation relative to a corresponding wild type sequence is a D6 gene segment selected from the group consisting of D6-6, D6-13, D6-19, and a combination 30 thereof.

In one embodiment, the human D gene segment that is present in the inverted orientation relative to a corresponding wild type sequence is  $D_7$ -27.

In one embodiment, the reading frame of the human D gene 35 segment is selected from a stop reading frame, a hydrophilic reading frame, a hydrophobic reading frame, and a combination thereof, wherein at least one reading frame of the inverted human D gene segment comprises a histidine codon.

In one embodiment, the unrearranged heavy chain variable 40 region nucleotide sequence comprising the inverted human D gene segment is operably linked to a human or non-human heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence that encodes an immunoglobulin isotype selected from IgM, IgD, IgG, IgE, and IgA.

In one embodiment, the human unrearranged immunoglobulin heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence is operably linked to a human or non-human heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence selected from a  $C_H1$ , a hinge, a  $C_H2$ , a  $C_H3$ , and a combination thereof. In one 50 embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence comprises a  $C_H1$ , a hinge, a  $C_H2$ , and a  $C_H3$  (i.e.,  $C_H1$ -hinge- $C_H2$ - $C_H3$ ).

In one embodiment, a heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence is present at an endogenous locus (i.e., where 55 the nucleotide sequence is located in a wild-type non-human animal) or present ectopically (e.g., at a locus different from the endogenous immunoglobulin chain locus in its genome, or within its endogenous locus, e.g., within an immunoglobulin variable locus, wherein the endogenous locus is placed 60 or moved to a different location in the genome).

In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence comprises a modification in a  ${\rm C}_H2$  or a  ${\rm C}_H3$ , wherein the modification increases the affinity of the heavy chain constant region amino acid sequence to FcRn in an 65 acidic environment (e.g., in an endosome where pH ranges from about 5.5 to about 6.0).

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In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence encodes a human heavy chain constant region amino acid sequence comprising a modification at position 250 (e.g., E or Q); 250 and 428 (e.g., L or F); 252 (e.g., L/Y/F/W or T), 254 (e.g., S or T), and 256 (e.g., S/R/Q/E/D or T); or a modification at position 428 and/or 433 (e.g., L/R/S/ P/Q or K) and/or 434 (e.g., H/F or Y); or a modification at position 250 and/or 428; or a modification at position 307 or 308 (e.g., 308F, V308F), and 434. In one embodiment, the modification comprises a 428L (e.g., M428L) and 434S (e.g., N434S) modification; a 428L, 259I (e.g., V259I), and 308F (e.g., V308F) modification; a 433K (e.g., H433K) and a 434 (e.g., 434Y) modification; a 252, 254, and 256 (e.g., 252Y, 254T, and 256E) modification; a 250Q and 428L modification (e.g., T250Q and M428L); and a 307 and/or 308 modification (e.g., 308F or 308P), wherein the modification increases the affinity of the heavy chain constant region amino acid sequence to FcRn in an acidic environment (e.g., in an endosome where pH ranges from about 5.5 to about 6.0).

In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence encodes a human  $C_{H2}$  amino acid sequence comprising at least one modification between amino acid residues at positions 252 and 257, wherein the modification increases the affinity of the human  $C_{H2}$  amino acid sequence to FcRn in an acidic environment (e.g., in an endosome where pH ranges from about 5.5 to about 6.0).

In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence encodes a human  $C_H2$  amino acid sequence comprising at least one modification between amino acid residues at positions 307 and 311, wherein the modification increases the affinity of the  $C_H2$  amino acid sequence to FcRn in an acidic environment (e.g., in an endosome where pH ranges from about 5.5 to about 6.0).

In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence encodes a human  $C_H3$  amino acid sequence, wherein the  $C_H3$  amino acid sequence comprises at least one modification between amino acid residues at positions 433 and 436, wherein the modification increases the affinity of the  $C_H3$  amino acid sequence to FcRn in an acidic environment (e.g., in an endosome where pH ranges from about 5.5 to about 6.0).

In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence encodes a human heavy chain constant region amino acid sequence comprising a mutation selected from the group consisting of M428L, N434S, and a combination thereof.

In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence encodes a human heavy chain constant region amino acid sequence comprising a mutation selected from the group consisting of M428L, V259I, V308F, and a combination thereof.

In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence encodes a human heavy chain constant region amino acid sequence comprising an N434A mutation.

In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence encodes a human heavy chain constant region amino acid sequence comprising a mutation selected from the group consisting of M252Y, S254T, T256E, and a combination thereof.

In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence encodes a human heavy chain constant region amino acid sequence comprising a mutation selected from the group consisting of T250Q, M248L, or both.

In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence encodes a human heavy chain constant region amino acid sequence comprising a mutation selected from the group consisting of H433K, N434Y, or both.

In one embodiment, the genetically modified immunoglobulin locus comprises: (1) a first allele, wherein the unrearranged human immunoglobulin heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence as described herein is operably linked to a first heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence 5 encoding a first CH3 amino acid sequence of a human IgG selected from IgG1, IgG2, IgG4, and a combination thereof; and (2) a second allele, wherein the unrearranged human immunoglobulin heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence as described herein is operably linked to a second heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence encoding a second C_H3 amino acid sequence of the human IgG selected from IgG1, IgG2, IgG4, and a combination thereof, and wherein the second CH₃ amino acid sequence comprises a modification that reduces or eliminates binding for the second 15 CH₃ amino acid sequence to Protein A (see, for example, US 2010/0331527A1, incorporated by reference herein in its entirety).

In one embodiment, the second CH₃ amino acid sequence comprises an H95R modification (by IMGT exon numbering: 20 bulin locus comprises an ectopically present Adam6a gene. H435R by EU numbering). In one embodiment the second CH₃ amino acid sequence further comprises an Y96F modification (by IMGT exon numbering; H436F by EU). In another embodiment, the second CH3 amino acid sequence comprises both an H95R modification (by IMGT exon num- 25 bering; H435R by EU numbering) and an Y96F modification (by IMGT exon numbering; H436F by EU).

In one embodiment, the second CH₃ amino acid sequence is from a modified human IgG1 and further comprises a mutation selected from the group consisting of D16E, L18M, 30 N44S, K52N, V57M, and V82I (IMGT; D356E, L38M, N384S, K392N, V397M, and V422I by EU).

In one embodiment, the second CH₃ amino acid sequence is from a modified human IgG2 and further comprises a mutation selected from the group consisting of N44S, K52N, 35 and V82I (IMGT: N384S, K392N, and V422I by EU).

In one embodiment, the second CH₃ amino acid sequence is from a modified human IgG4 and further comprises a mutation selected from the group consisting of Q15R, N44S, K52N, V57M, R69K, E79Q, and V82I (IMGT: Q355R, 40 N384S, K392N, V397M, R409K, E419Q, and V422I by EU).

In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region amino acid sequence is a non-human constant region amino acid sequence, and the heavy chain constant region amino acid sequence comprises one or more of any of the types of modi-45 fications described above.

In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence is a human heavy chain constant region amino acid sequence, and the human heavy chain constant region amino acid sequence comprises one or more of any of the 50 types of modifications described above.

In one embodiment, all or substantially all endogenous  $V_H$ , D, and  $J_H$  gene segments are deleted from an immunoglobulin heavy chain locus or rendered non-functional (e.g., via insertion of a nucleotide sequence (e.g., an exogenous nucleotide 55 sequence) in the immunoglobulin locus or via non-functional rearrangement, or inversion, of the endogenous  $V_H$ , D,  $J_H$ segments). In one embodiment, e.g., about 80% or more, about 85% or more, about 90% or more, about 95% or more, about 96% or more, about 97% or more, about 98% or more, 60 or about 99% or more of all endogenous  $V_H$ , D, or  $J_H$  gene segments are deleted or rendered non-functional. In one embodiment, e.g., at least 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, or 99% of endogenous functional V, D, or J gene segments are deleted or rendered non-functional.

In one embodiment, the genetically modified immunoglobulin heavy chain locus comprises a modification that deletes 42

or renders, all or substantially all, non-functional endogenous  $V_H$ , D, and  $J_H$  gene segments; and the genetically modified locus comprises an unrearranged heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence comprising at least one inverted human D gene segment as described herein wherein the unrearranged heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence is present at an endogenous location (i.e., where the nucleotide sequence is located in a wild-type non-human animal) or present ectopically (e.g., at a locus different from the endogenous immunoglobulin chain locus in its genome, or within its endogenous locus, e.g., within an immunoglobulin variable locus, wherein the endogenous locus is placed or moved to a different location in the genome).

In one embodiment, the genetically modified immunoglobulin locus comprises an endogenous Adam6a gene, Adam6b gene, or both, and the genetic modification does not affect the expression and/or function of the endogenous Adam6a gene, Adam6b gene, or both.

In one embodiment, the genetically modified immunoglo-Adam6b gene, or both. In one embodiment, the Adam6a gene is a non-human Adam6a gene. In one embodiment, the Adam6a gene is a mouse Adam6a gene. In one embodiment, the Adam6a gene is a human Adam6a gene. In one embodiment, the Adam6b gene is a non-human Adam6b gene. In one embodiment, the Adam6b gene is a mouse Adam6b gene. In one embodiment, the Adam6b gene is a human Adam6b gene.

In one embodiment, the genetically modified immunoglobulin locus further comprises a humanized, unrearranged  $\lambda$ and/or κ light chain variable gene sequence. In one embodiment, the humanized, unrearranged  $\lambda$  and/or  $\kappa$  light chain variable gene sequence is operably linked to an immunoglobulin light chain constant region nucleotide sequence selected from a λ light chain constant region nucleotide sequence and a k light chain constant region nucleotide sequence. In one embodiment, the humanized, unrearranged  $\lambda$  light chain variable region nucleotide sequence is operably linked to a  $\lambda$  light chain constant region nucleotide sequence. In one embodiment, the  $\lambda$  light chain constant region nucleotide sequence is a mouse, rat, or human sequence. In one embodiment, the humanized, unrearranged k light chain variable region nucleotide sequence is operably linked to a κ light chain constant region nucleotide sequence. In one embodiment, the  $\kappa$  light chain constant region nucleotide sequence is a mouse, rat, or human sequence.

In one embodiment, the genetically modified immunoglobulin locus comprises an unrearranged light chain variable gene sequence that contains at least one modification that introduces at least one histidine codon in at least one reading frame encoding a light chain variable domain. In one embodiment, the genetically modified immunoglobulin locus comprises a rearranged (e.g., a rearranged  $\lambda$  or  $\kappa$  V/J sequence) sequence that comprises one, two, three, or four codons for histidine in a light chain CDR. In one embodiment, the CDR is a selected from a CDR1, CDR2, CDR3, and a combination thereof. In one embodiment, the unrearranged or rearranged light chain variable region nucleotide sequence is an unrearranged or rearranged human  $\lambda$  or  $\kappa$  light chain variable region nucleotide sequence. In one embodiment, the unrearranged or rearranged human  $\lambda$  or  $\kappa$  light chain variable region nucleotide sequence is present at an endogenous mouse immunoglobulin light chain locus. In one embodiment, the mouse immunoglobulin light chain locus is a mouse κ locus. In one embodiment, the mouse immunoglobulin light chain locus is a mouse immunoglobulin light chain locus is a mouse  $\lambda$  locus.

In one embodiment, the genetically modified immunoglobulin locus as described herein is present in an immunoglo-

bulin heavy chain locus of a mouse. In one embodiment, the genetically modified immunoglobulin locus is present in a humanized immunoglobulin heavy chain locus in a VELOCI-MMUNE® mouse.

In one embodiment, the non-human animal is heterozy-5 gous for the genetically modified immunoglobulin heavy chain locus, and the non-human animal is capable of expressing the human immunoglobulin heavy chain variable domain comprising at least one histidine residue derived predominantly from the genetically modified immunoglobulin heavy 10 chain locus as described herein.

In one embodiment, an antigen-binding protein comprising a heavy chain variable domain expressed by the genetically modified immunoglobulin heavy chain locus as described herein exhibits a weaker antigen binding at an 15 acidic environment (e.g., at a pH of about 5.5 to about 6.0) than a corresponding wild-type heavy chain variable domain without the genetic modification.

In one embodiment, an antigen-binding protein comprising a heavy chain variable domain expressed by the geneti- 20 cally modified immunoglobulin heavy chain locus as described herein has a dissociative half-life  $(t_{1/2})$  of less than 2 min at an acidic pH (e.g., pH of about 5.5 to about 6.0) at 25° C. In one embodiment, an antigen-binding protein comprising a heavy chain variable domain expressed by the geneti- 25 cally modified immunoglobulin heavy chain locus as described herein has a dissociative half-life  $(t_{1/2})$  of less than 2 min at an acidic pH (e.g., pH of about 5.5 to about 6.0) at 37° C. In one embodiment, an antigen-binding protein comprising a heavy chain variable domain expressed by the genetically modified immunoglobulin heavy chain locus as described herein has a dissociative half-life  $(t_{1/2})$  of less than 1 min at an acidic pH (e.g., pH of about 5.5 to about 6.0) at 25° C. In one embodiment, an antigen-binding protein comprising a heavy chain variable domain expressed by the geneti- 35 cally modified immunoglobulin heavy chain locus as described herein has a dissociative half-life  $(t_{1/2})$  of less than 1 min at an acidic pH (e.g., pH of about 5.5 to about 6.0) at 37° C. In one embodiment, an antigen-binding protein comprising a heavy chain variable domain expressed by the geneti- 40 cally modified immunoglobulin locus as described herein has at least about 2-fold, at least about 3-fold, at least about 4-fold, at least about 5-fold, at least about 10-fold, at least about 15-fold, at least about 20-fold, at least about 25-fold, or at least about 30-fold decrease in dissociative half-life  $(t_{1/2})$  at 45 an acidic pH (e.g., pH of about 5.5 to about 6.0) as compared to the dissociative half-life  $(t_{1/2})$  of the antigen-binding protein at a neutral pH (e.g., pH of about 7.0 to about 7.4).

In one embodiment, an antigen-binding protein comprising a heavy chain variable domain expressed by the genetically modified immunoglobulin locus as described herein is characterized by improved pH-dependent recyclability, enhanced serum half-life, or both as compared with a wild-type antigen-binding protein without the genetic modification.

In one embodiment, the genetically modified immunoglobulin locus described herein comprises a B cell population that, upon stimulation with an antigen of interest, is capable of producing antigen-binding proteins, e.g., antibodies, comprising a heavy chain variable domain comprising one or 60 more histidine residues. The antigen-binding proteins as described herein when administered into a subject, exhibits an increased serum half-life over a corresponding wild-type antigen-binding protein, which possesses a similar or sufficiently similar amino acid sequence that encodes the heavy chain variable domain but does not comprise a histidine residue in the heavy chain variable domain. In some embodi-

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ments, the antigen-binding protein described herein exhibits an increased serum half-life that is at least about 2-fold, at least about 5-fold, at least about 10-fold, at least about 15-fold, at least about 20-fold higher than the corresponding wild-type antigen-binding protein, which possesses a similar or sufficiently similar amino acid sequence that encodes the heavy chain variable domain but does not comprise a histidine residue in the heavy chain variable domain.

In one aspect, a non-human animal that is capable of expressing an antigen-binding protein with enhanced pH-dependent recyclability and/or enhanced serum half-life are provided, wherein the non-human animal comprises in its germline genome an unrearranged human immunoglobulin heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence, wherein the unrearranged heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence comprises an addition of least one histidine codon or a substitution of at least one endogenous non-histidine codon with a histidine codon as described herein.

In one embodiment, the antigen-binding protein comprising a heavy chain variable domain expressed by the genetically modified immunoglobulin heavy chain locus as described herein exhibits a weaker antigen binding at an acidic environment (e.g., at a pH of about 5.5 to about 6.0) than a corresponding wild-type heavy chain variable domain without the genetic modification.

In one embodiment, an antigen-binding protein comprising a heavy chain variable domain expressed by the genetically modified immunoglobulin heavy chain locus as described herein has a dissociative half-life  $(t_{1/2})$  of less than 2 min at an acidic pH (e.g., pH of about 5.5 to about 6.0) at 25° C. In one embodiment, an antigen-binding protein comprising a heavy chain variable domain expressed by the genetically modified immunoglobulin heavy chain locus as described herein has a dissociative half-life  $(t_{1/2})$  of less than 2 min at an acidic pH (e.g., pH of about 5.5 to about 6.0) at 37° C. In one embodiment, an antigen-binding protein comprising a heavy chain variable domain expressed by the genetically modified immunoglobulin heavy chain locus as described herein has a dissociative half-life  $(t_{1/2})$  of less than 1 min at an acidic pH (e.g., pH of about 5.5 to about 6.0) at 25° C. In one embodiment, an antigen-binding protein comprising a heavy chain variable domain expressed by the genetically modified immunoglobulin heavy chain locus as described herein has a dissociative half-life  $(t_{1/2})$  of less than 1 min at an acidic pH (e.g., pH of about 5.5 to about 6.0) at 37° C. In one embodiment, an antigen-binding protein comprising a heavy chain variable domain expressed by the genetically modified immunoglobulin locus as described herein has at least about 2-fold, at least about 3-fold, at least about 4-fold, at least about 5-fold, at least about 10-fold, at least about 15-fold, at least about 20-fold, at least about 25-fold, or at least about 30-fold decrease in dissociative half-life  $(t_{1/2})$  at an acidic pH (e.g., pH of about 5.5 to about 6.0) as compared to the dissociative half-life  $(t_{1/2})$  of the antigen-binding protein at a neutral pH (e.g., pH of about 7.0 to about 7.4).

In one embodiment, the antigen-binding protein comprising a heavy chain variable domain expressed by the genetically modified immunoglobulin locus as described herein is characterized by improved pH-dependent recyclability, enhanced serum half-life, or both as compared with a wild-type antigen-binding protein without the genetic modification.

In one embodiment, the genetically modified immunoglobulin locus described herein comprises a B cell population that, upon stimulation with an antigen of interest, is capable of producing antigen-binding proteins, e.g., antibodies, comprising a heavy chain variable domain comprising one or

more histidine residues. The antigen-binding proteins as described herein when administered into a subject, exhibits an increased serum half-life over a corresponding wild-type antigen-binding protein, which possesses a similar or sufficiently similar amino acid sequence that encodes the heavy chain variable domain but does not comprise a histidine residue in the heavy chain variable domain. In some embodiments, the antigen-binding protein described herein exhibits an increased serum half-life that is at least about 2-fold, at least about 5-fold, at least about 10-fold, at least about 10-fold, at least about 10-fold, at least about similar or sufficiently similar amino acid sequence that encodes the heavy chain variable domain but does not comprise a histidine residue in the heavy chain variable domain.

In one aspect, a targeting construct is provided, comprising 5' and 3' targeting arms homologous to a genomic D region or genomic V and J region of a non-human animal, wherein at least one  $V_H$ , D, or  $J_H$  gene segment comprises any of the modifications as described herein, e.g., an addition of at least 20 one histidine codon, a substitution of at least one endogenous non-histidine codon into a histidine codon, and/or inversion of at least one functional D gene segment with respect to a corresponding wild type sequence.

In one aspect, a hybridoma or quadroma is provided that is 25 derived from a cell of any of the non-human animal as described herein. In one embodiment, the non-human animal is a rodent, e.g., a mouse, a rat, or a hamster.

In one aspect, pluripotent, induced pluripotent, or totipotent stem cells derived form a non-human animal comprising 30 the various genomic modifications of the described invention are provided. In a specific embodiment, the pluripotent, induced pluripotent, or totipotent stem cells are mouse or rat embryonic stem (ES) cells. In one embodiment, the pluripotent, induced pluripotent, or totipotent stem cells have an XX 35 karyotype or an XY karyotype. In one embodiment, the pluripotent or induced pluripotent stem cells are hematopoietic stem cells.

In one aspect, cells that comprise a nucleus containing a genetic modification as described herein are also provided, 40 e.g., a modification introduced into a cell by pronuclear injection. In one embodiment, the pluripotent, induced pluripotent, or totipotent stem cells comprise a genetically modified immunoglobulin genomic locus, wherein the genomic locus comprises, from 5' to 3', (1) an FRT recombination site, (2) 45 human  $V_H$  gene segments, (3) a mouse adam6 gene, (4) a loxP recombination site, (5) histidine-substituted human D gene segments, (6) human  $J_H$  gene segments, followed by (7) a mouse  $E_i$  (intronic enhancer), and (8) a mouse IgM constant region nucleotide sequence.

In one aspect, a lymphocyte isolated from a genetically modified non-human animal as described herein is provided. In one embodiment, the lymphocyte is a B cell, wherein the B cell comprises an immunoglobulin genomic locus comprising an unrearranged heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence wherein the unrearranged heavy chain variable gene sequence comprises an addition of least one histidine codon or a substitution of at least one endogenous non-histidine codon with a histidine codon.

In one aspect, a lymphocyte isolated from a genetically 60 modified non-human animal as described herein is provided. In one embodiment, the lymphocyte is a B cell, wherein the B cell comprises an immunoglobulin locus that comprises a human V, D, and J gene segment, wherein at least one of the human D gene segment has been inverted 5' to 3' with respect 65 to wild-type sequences, and wherein at least one reading frame of the inverted human D gene segment encodes at least

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one histidine residue. In one embodiment, the B cell is capable of producing an antigen-binding protein comprising the genetically modified heavy chain variable domain as described herein. In one embodiment, the genetically modified heavy chain variable domain as described herein is operably linked to a heavy chain constant region amino acid sequence.

In one aspect, a B cell population is provided that are capable of expressing an antigen-binding protein comprising at least one histidine residue in a heavy chain variable domain, wherein the B cell population comprises any genetic modifications as described herein. In one embodiment, the at least one histidine residue is present in a heavy chain CDR. In one embodiment, the CDR is a selected from a CDR1, CDR2, CDR3, and a combination thereof. In one embodiment, the at least one histidine residue is present in CDR3.

In one aspect, a B cell population is provided that are capable of expressing an antigen-binding protein with enhanced serum half-life and/or enhanced pH-dependent recyclability, wherein the B cell population comprises any genetic modifications as described herein.

In one aspect, a method for making a non-human animal comprising a genetically modified immunoglobulin heavy chain variable locus is provided, comprising:

(a) modifying a genome of a non-human animal to delete or render non-functional endogenous immunoglobulin heavy chain V, D, and J gene segments (e.g., via insertion of a nucleotide sequence, e.g., an exogenous nucleotide sequence, in the immunoglobulin locus or via non-functional rearrangement or inversion of endogenous  $V_H$ , D,  $J_H$  segments); and

(b) placing in the genome an unrearranged heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence, wherein the unrearranged heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence comprises an addition of least one histidine codon or a substitution of at least one endogenous non-histidine codon with a histidine codon as described herein.

In one embodiment, the non-human animal is a mammal, including a rodent, e.g., a mouse, a rat, or a hamster.

In one embodiment, 2 or more, 3 or more, 4 or more, 5 or more, 6 or more, 7 or more, 8 or more, 9 or more, 10 or more, 11 or more, 12 or more, 13 or more, 14 or more, 15 or more, 16 or more, 17 or more, 18 or more, 19 or more, 20 or more, 21 or more, 22 or more, 23 or more, 24 or more, 25 or more, 26 or more, 27 or more, 28 or more, 29 or more, 30 or more, 31 or more, 32 or more, 33 or more, 34 or more, 35 or more, 36 or more, 37 or more, 38 or more, 39 or more, 40 or more, 41 or more, 42 or more, 43 or more, 44 or more, 45 or more, 46 or more, 47 or more, 48 or more, 49 or more, 50 or more, 51 or more, 52 or more, 53 or more, 54 or more, 55 or more, 56 or more, 57 or more, 58 or more, 59 or more, 60 or more, or 61 or more of the endogenous non-histidine codons are replaced with histidine codons.

In one embodiment, the endogenous non-histone codon encodes the amino acid selected from Y, N, D, Q, S, W, and R.

In one embodiment, the added or substituted histidine codon is present in an unrearranged heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence that encodes an immunoglobulin variable domain selected from an N-terminal region, a loop 4 region, a CDR1, a CDR2, a CDR3, a combination thereof.

In one embodiment, the added substituted histidine codon histidine codon is present in an unrearranged heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence that encodes a complementary determining region (CDR) selected from a CDR1, a CDR2, a CDR3, and a combination thereof.

In one embodiment, the added or substituted histidine codon is present in an unrearranged heavy chain variable

region nucleotide sequence that encodes a frame region (FR) selected from FR1, FR2, FR3, FR4, and a combination thereof.

In one embodiment, the unrearranged heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence comprises a genetically modified human  $\mathbf{V}_H$  gene segment, wherein one or more endogenous non-histidine codon in at least one reading frame of the human  $\mathbf{V}_H$  gene segment has been replaced with a histidine codon

In one embodiment, the human unrearranged heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence comprises a modification that replaces at least one endogenous non-histidine codon of a human  $V_H$  gene segment with a histidine codon, wherein the human  $V_H$  gene segment is selected from the group consisting of  $V_H$ 1-2,  $V_H$ 1-3,  $V_H$ 1-8,  $V_H$ 1-18,  $V_H$ 1-24,  $V_H$ 1-45,  $V_H$ 1-46,  $V_H$ 1-58,  $V_H$ 1-69,  $V_H$ 2-5,  $V_H$ 2-26,  $V_H$ 2-70,  $V_H$ 3-7,  $V_H$ 3-9,  $V_H$ 3-11,  $V_H$ 3-13,  $V_H$ 3-15,  $V_H$ 3-16,  $V_H$ 3-20,  $V_H$ 3-21,  $V_H$ 3-23,  $V_H$ 3-30,  $V_H$ 3-30-3,  $V_H$ 3-30-5,  $V_H$ 3-33,  $V_H$ 3-35,  $V_H$ 3-38,  $V_H$ 3-43,  $V_H$ 3-48,  $V_H$ 3-49,  $V_H$ 3-53,  $V_H$ 3-66,  $V_H$ 3-72,  $V_H$ 3-73,  $V_H$ 3-74,  $V_H$ 4-4,  $V_H$ 4-28,  $V_H$ 4-30-1,  $V_H$ 4-30-2,  $V_H$ 4-30-4,  $V_H$ 4-31,  $V_H$ 4-34,  $V_H$ 4-39,  $V_H$ 4-59,  $V_H$ 4-61,  $V_H$ 5-51,  $V_H$ 6-1,  $V_H$ 7-4-1,  $V_H$ 7-81, and a combination thereof.

In one embodiment, the human unrearranged heavy chain 25 variable region nucleotide sequence comprises a genetically modified human  $J_H$  gene segment, wherein one or more endogenous non-histidine codon in at least one reading frame of the human  $J_H$  gene segment has been replaced with a histidine codon.

In one embodiment, the human unrearranged heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence comprises a modification that replaces at least one endogenous non-histidine codon of a human  $J_H$  segment with a histidine codon, wherein the human  $J_H$  gene segment is selected from the group consisting of  $J_H 1$ ,  $J_H 2$ ,  $J_H 3$ ,  $J_H 4$ ,  $J_H 5$ ,  $J_H 6$ , and a combination thereof

In one embodiment, the added or substituted histidine codon is present in a heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence that encodes part of a CDR3. In one embodiment, 40 the part of CDR3 comprises an amino acid sequence derived from a reading frame of a genetically modified human D gene segment comprising a modification that replaces at least one endogenous non-histidine codon in the reading frame with a histidine codon.

In one embodiment, the endogenous non-histidine codon that is substituted with a histidine codon encodes the amino acid selected from Y, N, D, Q, S, W, and R.

In one embodiment, the added or substituted histidine codon is present in at least one reading frame of the human D 50 gene segment that is most frequently observed in VELOCI-MMUNE® humanized immunoglobulin mice.

In one embodiment, the reading frame of the genetically modified human D gene segment that encodes part of CDR3 is selected from a hydrophobic frame, a stop frame, and a 55 hydrophilic frame.

In one embodiment, the reading frame is a hydrophobic frame of a human D gene segment.

In one embodiment, the hydrophobic frame of the human D gene segment comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes 60 the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of D1-1 (GTTGT; SEQ ID NO: 88), D1-7 (GITGT; SEQ ID NO: 89), D1-20 (GITGT; SEQ ID NO: 89), and D1-26 (GIV-GAT; SEQ ID NO: 90), and the human D gene segment further comprises a modification that replaces at least one endogenous non-histidine codon in the nucleotide sequence with a histidine codon.

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In one embodiment, the hydrophobic frame of the human D gene segment comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of D2-2 (DIVVVPAAI; SEQ ID NO:92), D2-8 (DIVLMVYAI; SEQ ID NO: 94), D2-15 (DIVVVVAAT; SEQ ID NO:95), and D2-21 (HIVVVTAI; SEQ ID NO: 97), and the human D gene segment further comprises a modification that replaces at least one endogenous non-histidine codon in the nucleotide sequence with a histidine codon.

In one embodiment, the hydrophobic frame of the human D gene segment comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of D3-3 (ITIFGVVII; SEQ ID NO:98), D3-9 (ITIF*LVII; SEQ ID NO:99, SEQ ID NO:100), D3-10 (ITMVRGVII; SEQ IDNO:101), D3-16 (IMITFGGVIVI; SEQ ID NO:102), and D3-22 (ITMIVVVIT; SEQ ID NO:103), and the human D gene segment further comprises a modification that replaces at least one endogenous codon in the nucleotide sequence with a histidine codon.

In one embodiment, the hydrophobic frame of the human D gene segment comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of D4-4 (TTVT; SEQ ID NO:105), D4-11 (TTVT; SEQ ID NO:105), D4-23 (TTVVT; SEQ ID NO:105), D4-23 (TTVVT; SEQ ID NO: 106) and the human D gene segment further comprises a modification that replaces at least one endogenous non-histidine codon in the nucleotide sequence with a histidine codon.

In one embodiment, the hydrophobic frame of the human D gene segment comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of D5-5 (VDTAMV; SEQ ID NO: 107), D5-12 (VDIVATI; SEQ ID NO:108), D5-18 (VDTAMV; SEQ ID NO:107), and D5-24 (VEMATI; SEQ ID NO:109), and the human D gene segment further comprises a modification that replaces at least one endogenous non-histidine codon in the nucleotide sequence with a histidine codon.

In one embodiment, the hydrophobic frame of the human D gene segment comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of D6-6 (SIAAR; SEQ ID NO:111), D6-13 (GIAAAG; SEQ ID NO:113), and D6-19 (GIAVAG; SEQ ID NO:115), and the human D gene segment further comprises a modification that replaces at least one endogenous non-histidine codon in the nucleotide sequence with a histidine codon.

In one embodiment, the hydrophobic frame comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes human D7-27 (LTG), and the human D gene segment further comprises a modification that replaces at least one endogenous non-histidine codon in the nucleotide sequence with a histidine codon.

In one embodiment, the reading frame is a stop reading frame of a human D gene segment.

In one embodiment, the stop reading frame of the human D gene segment comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of D1-1 (VQLER; SEQ ID NO:8), D1-7 (V*LEL), D1-20 (V*LER), D1-26 (V*WELL; SEQ ID NO:12), and the human D gene segment further comprises a modification that replaces at least one endogenous non-histidine codon in the nucleotide sequence with a histidine codon.

In one embodiment, the stop reading frame of the human D gene segment comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of D2-2 (RIL**YQLLY; SEQ ID NO:14), D2-8 (RILY*WCMLY; SEQ ID NO:16 and SEQ ID NO: 17), D2-15 (RIL*WW*LLL), and D2-21 (SILWW*LLF; SEQ ID NO:19), and the human D gene segment further comprises a

modification that replaces at least one endogenous non-histidine codon in the nucleotide sequence with a histidine codon.

In one embodiment, the stop reading frame of the human D gene segment comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting 5 of D3-3 (VLRFLEWLLY; SEQ ID NO:21), D3-9 (VLRYFD-WLL*; SEQ ID NO:23), D3-10 (VLLWFGELL*; SEQ ID NO:25), D3-16 (VL*LRLGELSLY; SEQ ID NO:27), and D3-22 (VLL***WLLL; SEQ ID NO:29), and the human D gene segment comprises a modification that replaces at least 10 one endogenous non-histidine codon in the nucleotide sequence with a histidine codon.

In one embodiment, the stop reading frame of the human D gene segment comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of D4-4 (*LQ*L), D4-11 (*LQ*L), D4-17 (*LR*L), and D4-23 (*LRW*L), and the human D gene segment comprises a modification that replaces at least one endogenous non-histidine codon

In one embodiment, the stop reading frame of the human D gene segment comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of D5-5 (WIQLWL; SEQ ID NO:35); D5-12 (WI*WLRL; SEQ ID NO:37), D5-18 (WIQLWL; SEQ ID NO:35), and 25 D5-24 (*RWLQL; SEQ ID NO:39), and the human D gene segment comprises a modification that replaces at least one endogenous non-histidine codon in the nucleotide sequence with a histidine codon.

In one embodiment, the stop reading frame of the human D 30 gene segment comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of D6-6 (V*QLV), D6-13 (V*QQLV; SEQ ID NO:41), and D6-19 (V*QWLV; SEQ ID NO:43), and the human D gene segment further comprises a modification that replaces at 35 least one endogenous non-histidine codon in the nucleotide sequence with a histidine codon.

In one embodiment, the stop reading frame of the human D gene segment comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes D7-27 (*LG), and the human D gene segment further comprises a modification that replaces at least one endogenous codon of the human D gene segment in the nucleotide sequence with a histidine codon.

În one embodiment, the reading frame is a hydrophilic frame of a human D gene segment.

In one embodiment, the hydrophilic frame of the human D gene segment comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of D1-1 (YNWND; SEQ ID NO: 45), D1-7 (YNWNY; SEQ ID NO: 47), D1-20 (YNWND; SEQ ID NO: 45), and D1-26 50 (YSGSYY; SEQ ID NO:49), and the human D gene segment further comprises a modification that replaces at least one endogenous codon in the nucleotide sequence with a histidine codon. In one embodiment, the hydrophilic frame comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes the amino acid sequence 55 selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 46, SEQ ID NO: 48, SEQ ID NO: 50, and a combination thereof.

In one embodiment, the hydrophilic frame of the human D gene segment comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of D2-2 (GYCSSTSCYT; SEQ ID NO:51), D2-8 (GYCTNGVCYT; SEQ ID NO:53), D2-15 (GYCSGGSCYS; SEQ ID NO:55), and D2-21 (AYCGGDCYS; SEQ ID NO:57), and the human D gene segment further comprises a modification that replaces at least one endogenous codon in the nucleotide sequence with a histidine codon. In one embodiment, the hydrophilic frame comprises a nucleotide sequence that

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encodes the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 52, SEQ ID NO: 54, SEQ ID NO: 56, SEQ ID NO: 58, and a combination thereof.

In one embodiment, the hydrophilic frame of the human D gene segment comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of D3-3 (YYDFWSGYYT; SEQ ID NO:59), D3-9 (YYDILT-GYYN; SEQ ID NO:61), D3-10 (YYYGSGSYYN; SEQ ID NO:63), D3-16 (YYDYVWGSYRYT; SEQ ID NO:65), and D3-22 (YYYDSSGYYY; SEQ ID NO:67), and the human D gene segment further comprises a modification that replaces at least one endogenous codon in the nucleotide sequence with a histidine codon. In one embodiment, the hydrophilic frame comprises a nucleotide sequence encodes the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 60, SEQ ID NO: 62, SEQ ID NO: 64, SEQ ID NO: 66, SEQ ID NO: 68, and a combination thereof.

In one embodiment, the hydrophilic frame of the human D gene segment comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of D4-4 (DYSNY; SEQ ID NO:69), D4-11 (DYSNY; SEQ ID NO:69), D4-17 (DYGDY; SEQ ID NO:71), and D4-23 (DYGGNS; SEQ ID NO:73), and the human D gene segment comprises a modification that replaces at least one endogenous codon in the nucleotide sequence with a histidine codon. In one embodiment, the hydrophilic frame comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 70, SEQ ID NO: 72, SEQ ID NO: 74, and a combination thereof.

In one embodiment, the hydrophilic frame of the human D gene segment comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of D5-5 (GYSYGY; SEQ ID NO:75), D5-12 (GYSGYDY; SEQ ID NO:77), D5-18 (GYSYGY; SEQ ID NO:75), and D5-24 (RDGYNY; SEQ ID NO:79), and the human D gene segment further comprises a modification that replaces at least one endogenous codon in the nucleotide sequence with a histidine codon. In one embodiment, the hydrophilic frame comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 76, SEQ ID NO: 78, SEQ ID NO: 80, and a combination thereof.

In one embodiment, the hydrophilic frame of the human D gene segment comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of D6-6 (EYSSSS; SEQ ID NO: 81), D6-13 (GYSSSWY; SEQ ID NO:83), and D6-19 (GYSSGWY; SEQ ID NO:85), and the human D gene segment further comprises a modification that replaces at least one endogenous codon in the nucleotide sequence with a histidine codon. In one embodiment, the hydrophilic frame comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 82, SEQ ID NO: 84, SEQ ID NO: 86, SEQ ID NO: 76, and a combination thereof.

In one embodiment, the hydrophilic frame of the human D gene segment comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes D7-27 (NWG), and the human D gene segment further comprises a modification that replaces at least one endogenous codon in the nucleotide sequence a histidine codon.

In one embodiment, the hydrophilic frame of the human D gene segment comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 46, SEQ ID NO: 48, SEQ ID NO: 50, SEQ ID NO: 52, SEQ ID NO: 54, SEQ ID NO: 56, SEQ ID NO: 58, SEQ ID NO: 60, SEQ ID NO: 62, SEQ ID NO: 64, SEQ ID NO: 66, SEQ ID NO: 68, SEQ ID NO: 70, SEQ ID NO: 72,

SEQ ID NO: 74, SEQ ID NO: 76, SEQ ID NO: 78, SEQ ID NO: 80, SEQ ID NO: 82, SEQ ID NO: 84, SEQ ID NO: 86, and a combination thereof.

In one embodiment, the unrearranged heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence comprising the inverted human D gene segment is operably linked to a human or non-human heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence that encodes an immunoglobulin isotype selected from IgM, IgD, IgG, IgE, and IgA.

In one embodiment, the human unrearranged immunoglobulin heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence is operably linked to a human or non-human heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence selected from a  $C_H1$ , a hinge, a  $C_H 2$ , a  $C_H 3$ , and a combination thereof. In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nucleotide 15 sequence comprises a  $C_H1$ , a hinge, a  $C_H2$ , and a  $C_H3$  (i.e.,  $C_H$ 1-hinge- $C_H$ 2- $C_H$ 3).

In one embodiment, a heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence is present at an endogenous locus (i.e., where animal) or present ectopically (e.g., at a locus different from the endogenous immunoglobulin chain locus in its genome, or within its endogenous locus, e.g., within an immunoglobulin variable locus, wherein the endogenous locus is placed or moved to a different location in the genome).

In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence comprises a modification in a  $C_H 2$  or a  $C_H 3$ , wherein the modification increases the affinity of the heavy chain constant region amino acid sequence to FcRn in an acidic environment (e.g., in an endosome where pH ranges 30 from about 5.5 to about 6.0).

In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence encodes a human heavy chain constant region amino acid sequence comprising a modification at position 250 (e.g., E or Q); 250 and 428 (e.g., L or F); 252 (e.g., 35 L/Y/F/W or T), 254 (e.g., S or T), and 256 (e.g., S/R/Q/E/D or T); or a modification at position 428 and/or 433 (e.g., L/R/S/ P/Q or K) and/or 434 (e.g., H/F or Y); or a modification at position 250 and/or 428; or a modification at position 307 or 308 (e.g., 308F, V308F), and 434. In one embodiment, the 40 modification comprises a 428L (e.g., M428L) and 434S (e.g., N434S) modification; a 428L, 259I (e.g., V259I), and 308F (e.g., V308F) modification; a 433K (e.g., H433K) and a 434 (e.g., 434Y) modification; a 252, 254, and 256 (e.g., 252Y, 254T, and 256E) modification; a 250Q and 428L modification 45 (e.g., T250Q and M428L); and a 307 and/or 308 modification (e.g., 308F or 308P), wherein the modification increases the affinity of the heavy chain constant region amino acid sequence to FcRn in an acidic environment (e.g., in an endosome where pH ranges from about 5.5 to about 6.0)

In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence encodes a human  $C_H 2$  amino acid sequence comprising at least one modification between amino acid residues at positions 252 and 257, wherein the modification increases the affinity of the human  $C_H 2$  amino acid sequence 55 to FcRn in an acidic environment (e.g., in an endosome where pH ranges from about 5.5 to about 6.0).

In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence encodes a human  $C_H 2$  amino acid sequence comprising at least one modification between amino acid 60 is from a modified human IgG1 and further comprises a residues at positions 307 and 311, wherein the modification increases the affinity of the C_H2 amino acid sequence to FcRn in an acidic environment (e.g., in an endosome where pH ranges from about 5.5 to about 6.0).

In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence encodes a human C_H3 amino acid sequence, wherein the  $C_H$ 3 amino acid sequence comprises at least one

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modification between amino acid residues at positions 433 and 436, wherein the modification increases the affinity of the  $C_H$ 3 amino acid sequence to FcRn in an acidic environment (e.g., in an endosome where pH ranges from about 5.5 to about 6.0).

In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence encodes a human heavy chain constant region amino acid sequence comprising a mutation selected from the group consisting of M428L, N434S, and a combination thereof.

In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence encodes a human heavy chain constant region amino acid sequence comprising a mutation selected from the group consisting of M428L, V259I, V308F, and a combination thereof.

In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence encodes a human heavy chain constant region amino acid sequence comprising an N434A mutation.

In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nuclethe nucleotide sequence is located in a wild-type non-human 20 otide sequence encodes a human heavy chain constant region amino acid sequence comprising a mutation selected from the group consisting of M252Y, S254T, T256E, and a combination thereof.

> In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nucle-25 otide sequence encodes a human heavy chain constant region amino acid sequence comprising a mutation selected from the group consisting of T250Q, M248L, or both.

In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence encodes a human heavy chain constant region amino acid sequence comprising a mutation selected from the group consisting of H433K, N434Y, or both.

In one embodiment, the genetically modified immunoglobulin locus comprises: (1) a first allele, wherein the unrearranged human immunoglobulin heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence as described herein is operably linked to a first heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence encoding a first CH₃ amino acid sequence of a human IgG selected from IgG1, IgG2, IgG4, and a combination thereof; and (2) a second allele, wherein the unrearranged human immunoglobulin heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence as described herein is operably linked to a second heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence encoding a second C_H3 amino acid sequence of the human IgG selected from IgG1, IgG2, IgG4, and a combination thereof, and wherein the second CH₃ amino acid sequence comprises a modification that reduces or eliminates binding for the second CH₃ amino acid sequence to Protein A (see, for example, US 2010/0331527A1, which is incorporated by reference herein in its entirety).

In one embodiment, the second CH₃ amino acid sequence comprises an H95R modification (by IMGT exon numbering; H435R by EU numbering). In one embodiment the second CH₃ amino acid sequence further comprises an Y96F modification (by IMGT exon numbering; H436F by EU). In another embodiment, the second CH₃ amino acid sequence comprises both an H95R modification (by IMGT exon numbering; H435R by EU numbering) and an Y96F modification (by IMGT exon numbering; H436F by EU).

In one embodiment, the second CH₃ amino acid sequence mutation selected from the group consisting of D16E, L18M, N44S, K52N, V57M, and V82I (IMGT; D356E, L38M, N384S, K392N, V397M, and V422I by EU).

In one embodiment, the second CH₃ amino acid sequence is from a modified human IgG2 and further comprises a mutation selected from the group consisting of N44S, K52N, and V82I (IMGT: N384S, K392N, and V422I by EU).

In one embodiment, the second CH₃ amino acid sequence is from a modified human IgG4 and further comprises a mutation selected from the group consisting of Q15R, N44S, K52N, V57M, R69K, E79Q, and V82I (IMGT: Q355R, N384S, K392N, V397M, R409K, E419Q, and V422I by EU). 5

In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region amino acid sequence is a non-human constant region amino acid sequence, and the heavy chain constant region amino acid sequence comprises one or more of any of the types of modifications described above.

In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence is a human heavy chain constant region amino acid sequence, and the human heavy chain constant region amino acid sequence comprises one or more of any of the types of modifications described above.

In one embodiment, all or substantially all endogenous  $V_H$ , D, and  $J_H$  gene segments are deleted from an immunoglobulin heavy chain locus or rendered non-functional (e.g., via insertion of a nucleotide sequence (e.g., an exogenous nucleotide sequence) in the immunoglobulin locus or via non-functional 20 rearrangement, or inversion, of the endogenous  $V_H$ , D,  $J_H$  segments). In one embodiment, e.g., about 80% or more, about 85% or more, about 90% or more, about 95% or more, about 96% or more, about 97% or more, about 98% or more, or about 99% or more of all endogenous  $V_H$ ,  $V_H$ 

In one embodiment, the genetically modified locus comprises a modification that deletes or renders non-functional all or substantially all endogenous  $V_H$ , D, and  $J_H$  gene segments; and the genomic locus comprises the genetically modified, unrearranged human heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence comprising a substitution of at least one endog- 35 enous non-histidine codon with a histidine codon in at least one reading frame. In one embodiment, the genetically modified, unrearranged immunoglobulin heavy chain variable gene sequence is present at an endogenous location (i.e., where the nucleotide sequence is located in a wild-type non- 40 human animal) or present ectopically (e.g., at a locus different from the endogenous immunoglobulin chain locus in its genome), or within its endogenous locus, e.g., within an immunoglobulin variable locus, wherein the endogenous locus is placed or moved to a different location in the genome. 45

In one embodiment, the genetically modified locus comprises an endogenous Adam6a gene, Adam6b gene, or both, and the genetic modification does not affect the expression and/or function of the endogenous Adam6a gene, Adam6b gene, or both.

In one embodiment, the genetically modified locus comprises an ectopically present Adam6a gene, Adam6b gene, or both. In one embodiment, the Adam6a gene is a non-human Adam6a gene. In one embodiment, the Adam6a gene is a mouse Adam6a gene. In one embodiment, the Adam6a gene 55 is a human Adam6a gene. In one embodiment, the Adam6b gene is a non-human Adam6b gene. In one embodiment, the Adam6b gene is a mouse Adam6b gene. In one embodiment, the Adam6b gene is a human Adam6b gene.

In one embodiment, the genetically modified immunoglobulin locus further comprises a humanized, unrearranged  $\lambda$  and/or  $\kappa$  light chain variable gene sequence. In one embodiment, the humanized, unrearranged  $\lambda$  and/or  $\kappa$  light chain variable gene sequence is operably linked to an immunoglobulin light chain constant region nucleotide sequence  $\delta$  selected from a  $\lambda$  light chain constant region nucleotide sequence and a  $\kappa$  light chain constant region nucleotide

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sequence. In one embodiment, the humanized, unrearranged  $\lambda$  light chain variable region nucleotide sequence is operably linked to a  $\lambda$  light chain constant region nucleotide sequence. In one embodiment, the  $\lambda$  light chain constant region nucleotide sequence is a mouse, rat, or human sequence. In one embodiment, the humanized, unrearranged  $\kappa$  light chain variable region nucleotide sequence is operably linked to a  $\kappa$  light chain constant region nucleotide sequence. In one embodiment, the  $\kappa$  light chain constant region nucleotide sequence is a mouse, rat, or human sequence.

In one embodiment, the genetically modified immunoglobulin locus comprises an unrearranged light chain variable gene sequence that contains at least one modification that introduces at least one histidine codon in at least one reading frame encoding a light chain variable domain. In one embodiment, the genetically modified immunoglobulin locus comprises a rearranged (e.g., a rearranged λ or κ V/J sequence) sequence that comprises one, two, three, or four codons for histidine in a light chain CDR. In one embodiment, the CDR is a selected from a CDR1, CDR2, CDR3, and a combination thereof. In one embodiment, the unrearranged or rearranged light chain variable region nucleotide sequence is an unrearranged or rearranged human  $\lambda$  or  $\kappa$  light chain variable region nucleotide sequence. In one embodiment, the unrearranged or rearranged human  $\lambda$  or  $\kappa$  light chain variable region nucleotide sequence is present at an endogenous mouse immunoglobulin light chain locus. In one embodiment, the mouse immunoglobulin light chain locus is a mouse  $\kappa$  locus. In one embodiment the mouse immunoglobulin light chain locus is a mouse λ locus.

In one embodiment, the genetically modified immunoglobulin locus as described herein is present in an immunoglobulin heavy chain locus of a mouse. In one embodiment, the genetically modified immunoglobulin locus is present in a humanized immunoglobulin heavy chain locus in a VELOCI-MMUNE® mouse.

In one embodiment, an antigen-binding protein comprising a heavy chain variable domain expressed by the genetically modified immunoglobulin heavy chain locus as described herein exhibits a weaker antigen binding at an acidic environment (e.g., at a pH of about 5.5 to about 6.0) than a corresponding wild-type heavy chain variable domain without the genetic modification.

In one embodiment, an antigen-binding protein comprising a heavy chain variable domain expressed by the genetically modified immunoglobulin heavy chain locus as described herein has a dissociative half-life  $(t_{1/2})$  of less than 2 min at an acidic pH (e.g., pH of about 5.5 to about 6.0) at 25° C. In one embodiment, an antigen-binding protein comprising a heavy chain variable domain expressed by the genetically modified immunoglobulin heavy chain locus as described herein has a dissociative half-life  $(t_{1/2})$  of less than 2 min at an acidic pH (e.g., pH of about 5.5 to about 6.0) at 37° C. In one embodiment, an antigen-binding protein comprising a heavy chain variable domain expressed by the genetically modified immunoglobulin heavy chain locus as described herein has a dissociative half-life  $(t_{1/2})$  of less than 1 min at an acidic pH (e.g., pH of about 5.5 to about 6.0) at 25° C. In one embodiment, an antigen-binding protein comprising a heavy chain variable domain expressed by the genetically modified immunoglobulin heavy chain locus as described herein has a dissociative half-life  $(t_{1/2})$  of less than 1 min at an acidic pH (e.g., pH of about 5.5 to about 6.0) at 37° C. In one embodiment, an antigen-binding protein comprising a heavy chain variable domain expressed by the genetically modified immunoglobulin locus as described herein has at least about 2-fold, at least about 3-fold, at least about

4-fold, at least about 5-fold, at least about 10-fold, at least about 15-fold, at least about 20-fold, at least about 25-fold, or at least about 30-fold decrease in dissociative half-life ( $t_{1/2}$ ) at an acidic pH (e.g., pH of about 5.5 to about 6.0) as compared to the dissociative half-life ( $t_{1/2}$ ) of the antigen-binding protein at a neutral pH (e.g., pH of about 7.0 to about 7.4).

In one embodiment, an antigen-binding protein comprising a heavy chain variable domain expressed by the genetically modified immunoglobulin locus as described herein is characterized by improved pH-dependent recyclability, 10 enhanced serum half-life, or both as compared with a wild-type antigen-binding protein without the genetic modification.

In one embodiment, the genetically modified immunoglobulin locus described herein comprises a B cell population 15 that, upon stimulation with an antigen of interest, is capable of producing antigen-binding proteins, e.g., antibodies, comprising a heavy chain variable domain comprising one or more histidine residues. The antigen-binding proteins as described herein when administered into a subject, exhibits 20 an increased serum half-life over a corresponding wild-type antigen-binding protein, which possesses a similar or sufficiently similar amino acid sequence that encodes the heavy chain variable domain but does not comprise a histidine residue in the heavy chain variable domain. In some embodi- 25 ments, the antigen-binding protein described herein exhibits an increased serum half-life that is at least about 2-fold, at least about 5-fold, at least about 10-fold, at least about 15-fold, at least about 20-fold higher than the corresponding wild-type antigen-binding protein, which possesses a similar or sufficiently similar amino acid sequence that encodes the heavy chain variable domain but does not comprise a histidine residue in the heavy chain variable domain.

In one aspect, a method for making a non-human animal comprising a genetically modified immunoglobulin heavy 35 chain variable locus is provided, comprising:

(a) modifying a genome of a non-human animal to delete or render non-functional endogenous immunoglobulin heavy chain V, D, and J gene segments (e.g., via insertion of a nucleotide sequence (e.g., an exogenous nucleotide 40 sequence) in the immunoglobulin locus or via non-functional rearrangement or inversion of endogenous  $V_H$ , D,  $J_H$  segments); and

(b) placing in the genome a human  $V_H$ , D, and  $J_H$  gene segment, wherein at least one of the human D gene segment 45 has been inverted 5' to 3' with respect to a corresponding wild-type sequence, and wherein at least one reading frame of the inverted human D gene segment comprises a histidine codon.

In one embodiment, the non-human animal is a mammal, 50 bination thereof. including a rodent, e.g., a mouse, a rat, or a hamster In one embod

In one embodiment, the genetically modified immunoglobulin locus is present in a germline genome.

In one embodiment, the genetically modified immunoglobulin locus encodes an immunoglobulin heavy chain variable 55 domain comprising one or more, 2 or more, 3 or more, 4 or more, 5 or more, 6 or more, 7 or more, 8 or more, 9 or more, 10 or more, 11 or more, 12 or more, 13 or more, 14 or more, 15 or more, 16 or more, 17 or more, 18 or more, 19 or more, 20 or more, 21 or more, 22 or more, 23 or more, 24 or more, 25 or more, 26 or more, 27 or more, 28 or more, 29 or more, 30 or more, 31 or more, 32 or more, 33 or more, or 34 or more of histidine residues.

In one embodiment, at least two, at least three, at least four, at least five, at least six, at least seven, at least eight, at least 65 nine, at least ten, at least eleven, at least twelve, at least thirteen, at least fourteen, at least fifteen, at least sixteen, at

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least seventeen, at least eighteen, at least nineteen, at least twenty, at least twenty one, at least twenty two, at least twenty three, at least twenty four, or all or substantially all of functional human D gene segments have inverted orientation with respect to corresponding wild type sequences.

In one embodiment, all or substantially all of endogenous immunoglobulin  ${\rm V}_H, {\rm D}, {\rm J}_H$  gene segments are deleted from the immunoglobulin heavy chain locus or rendered non-functional (e.g., via insertion of a nucleotide sequence, e.g., exogenous nucleotide sequence, in the immunoglobulin locus or via non-functional rearrangement or inversion of all, or substantially all, endogenous immunoglobulin  ${\rm V}_H, {\rm D}, {\rm J}_H$  segments), and the genetically modified immunoglobulin locus comprises a human  ${\rm V}_H, {\rm D},$  and  ${\rm J}_H$  gene segments, wherein at least one of the human D gene segment is present in an inverted orientation with respect to a corresponding wild type sequence, and wherein at least one reading frame in the inverted human D gene segment comprises at least one histidine codon.

In one embodiment, the inverted human D gene segment is operably linked to a human  $V_H$  gene segment, and/or human  $J_H$  gene segment

In one embodiment, the human D gene segment that is present in the inverted orientation relative to wild type sequences is selected from the group consisting of D1-1, D1-7, D1-20, D1-26, D2-2, D2-8, D2-15, D2-21, D3-3, D3-9, D3-10, D3-16, D3-22, D4-4, D4-11, D4-17, D4-23, D5-5, D5-12, D5-18, D5-24, D6-6, D6-13, D6-19, D7-27, and a combination thereof.

In one embodiment, the human D gene segment that is present in the inverted orientation relative to a corresponding wild type sequence is a D1 gene segment selected from the group consisting of D1-1, D1-7, D1-20, D1-26, and a combination thereof.

In one embodiment, the human D gene segment that is present in the inverted orientation relative to a corresponding wild type sequence is a D2 gene segment selected from the group consisting of D2-2, D2-8, D2-15, D2-21, and a combination thereof.

In one embodiment, the human D gene segment that is present in the inverted orientation relative to a corresponding wild type sequence is a D3 gene segment selected from the group consisting of D3-3, D3-9, D3-10, D3-16, D3-22, and a combination thereof.

In one embodiment, the human D gene segment that is present in the inverted orientation relative to a corresponding wild type sequence is a D4 gene segment selected from the group consisting of D4-4, D4-11, D4-17, D4-23, and a combination thereof.

In one embodiment, the human D gene segment that is present in the inverted orientation relative to a corresponding wild type sequence is a D5 gene segment selected from the group consisting of D5-5, D5-12, D5-18, D5-24, and a combination thereof.

In one embodiment, the human D gene segment that is present in the inverted orientation relative to a corresponding wild type sequence is a D6 gene segment selected from the group consisting of D6-6, D6-13, D6-19, and a combination thereof.

In one embodiment, the human D gene segment that is present in the inverted orientation relative to a corresponding wild type sequence is D7-27.

In one embodiment, the reading frame of the human D gene segment is selected from a stop reading frame, a hydrophilic reading frame, a hydrophobic reading frame, and a combination thereof.

In one embodiment, the unrearranged heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence comprising the inverted human D gene segment is operably linked to a human or non-human heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence that encodes an immunoglobulin isotype selected from IgM, IgD, IgG, IgE, and IgA.

In one embodiment, the human unrearranged immunoglobulin heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence is operably linked to a human or non-human heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence selected from a  $C_H1$ , a hinge, a  $C_H2$ , a  $C_H3$ , and a combination thereof. In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence comprises a  $C_H1$ , a hinge, a  $C_H2$ , and a  $C_H3$  (i.e.,  $C_H1$ -hinge- $C_H2$ - $C_H3$ ).

In one embodiment, a heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence is present at an endogenous locus (i.e., where the nucleotide sequence is located in a wild-type non-human animal) or present ectopically (e.g., at a locus different from the endogenous immunoglobulin chain locus in its genome, 20 or within its endogenous locus, e.g., within an immunoglobulin variable locus, wherein the endogenous locus is placed or moved to a different location in the genome).

In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence comprises a modification in a  $C_H2$  or a  $C_H3$ , 25 wherein the modification increases the affinity of the heavy chain constant region amino acid sequence to FcRn in an acidic environment (e.g., in an endosome where pH ranges from about 5.5 to about 6.0).

In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence encodes a human heavy chain constant region amino acid sequence comprising a modification at position 250 (e.g., E or Q); 250 and 428 (e.g., L or F); 252 (e.g., L/Y/F/W or T), 254 (e.g., S or T), and 256 (e.g., S/R/Q/E/D or T); or a modification at position 428 and/or 433 (e.g., L/R/S/ 35 P/Q or K) and/or 434 (e.g., H/F or Y); or a modification at position 250 and/or 428; or a modification at position 307 or 308 (e.g., 308F, V308F), and 434. In one embodiment, the modification comprises a 428L (e.g., M428L) and 434S (e.g., N434S) modification; a 428L, 259I (e.g., V259I), and 308F 40 (e.g., V308F) modification; a 433K (e.g., H433K) and a 434 (e.g., 434Y) modification; a 252, 254, and 256 (e.g., 252Y, 254T, and 256E) modification; a 250Q and 428L modification (e.g., T250Q and M428L); and a 307 and/or 308 modification (e.g., 308F or 308P), wherein the modification increases the 45 affinity of the heavy chain constant region amino acid sequence to FcRn in an acidic environment (e.g., in an endosome where pH ranges from about 5.5 to about 6.0).

In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence encodes a human  $C_H2$  amino acid sequence 50 comprising at least one modification between amino acid residues at positions 252 and 257, wherein the modification increases the affinity of the human  $C_H2$  amino acid sequence to FcRn in an acidic environment (e.g., in an endosome where pH ranges from about 5.5 to about 6.0).

In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence encodes a human  $C_{H}2$  amino acid sequence comprising at least one modification between amino acid residues at positions 307 and 311, wherein the modification increases the affinity of the  $C_{H}2$  amino acid sequence to FcRn 60 in an acidic environment (e.g., in an endosome where pH ranges from about 5.5 to about 6.0).

In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence encodes a human  $C_H3$  amino acid sequence, wherein the  $C_H3$  amino acid sequence comprises at least one 65 modification between amino acid residues at positions 433 and 436, wherein the modification increases the affinity of the

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 $C_H$ 3 amino acid sequence to FcRn in an acidic environment (e.g., in an endosome where pH ranges from about 5.5 to about 6.0).

In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence encodes a human heavy chain constant region amino acid sequence comprising a mutation selected from the group consisting of M428L, N434S, and a combination thereof.

In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence encodes a human heavy chain constant region amino acid sequence comprising a mutation selected from the group consisting of M428L, V259I, V308F, and a combination thereof.

In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence encodes a human heavy chain constant region amino acid sequence comprising an N434A mutation.

In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence encodes a human heavy chain constant region amino acid sequence comprising a mutation selected from the group consisting of M252Y, S254T, T256E, and a combination thereof.

In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence encodes a human heavy chain constant region amino acid sequence comprising a mutation selected from the group consisting of T250Q, M248L, or both.

In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence encodes a human heavy chain constant region amino acid sequence comprising a mutation selected from the group consisting of H433K, N434Y, or both.

In one embodiment, the genetically modified immunoglobulin locus comprises: (1) a first allele, wherein the unrearranged human immunoglobulin heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence as described herein is operably linked to a first heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence encoding a first CH3 amino acid sequence of a human IgG selected from IgG1, IgG2, IgG4, and a combination thereof; and (2) a second allele, wherein the unrearranged human immunoglobulin heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence as described herein is operably linked to a second heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence encoding a second C_H3 amino acid sequence of the human IgG selected from IgG1, IgG2, IgG4, and a combination thereof, and wherein the second CH₃ amino acid sequence comprises a modification that reduces or eliminates binding for the second CH₃ amino acid sequence to Protein A (see, for example, US 2010/0331527A1, which is incorporated by reference herein in its entirety).

In one embodiment, the second CH₃ amino acid sequence comprises an H95R modification (by IMGT exon numbering; H435R by EU numbering). In one embodiment the second CH₃ amino acid sequence further comprises an Y96F modification (by IMGT exon numbering; H436F by EU). In another embodiment, the second CH₃ amino acid sequence comprises both an H95R modification (by IMGT exon numbering; H435R by EU numbering) and an Y96F modification (by IMGT exon numbering; H436F by EU).

In one embodiment, the second  $\mathrm{CH_3}$  amino acid sequence is from a modified human IgG1 and further comprises a mutation selected from the group consisting of D16E, L18M, N44S, K52N, V57M, and V82I (IMGT; D356E, L38M, N384S, K392N, V397M, and V422I by EU).

In one embodiment, the second CH₃ amino acid sequence is from a modified human IgG2 and further comprises a mutation selected from the group consisting of N44S, K52N, and V82I (IMGT: N384S, K392N, and V422I by EU).

In one embodiment, the second CH₃ amino acid sequence is from a modified human IgG4 and further comprises a

mutation selected from the group consisting of Q15R, N44S, K52N, V57M, R69K, E79Q, and V82I (IMGT: Q355R, N384S, K392N, V397M, R409K, E419Q, and V422I by EU).

In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region amino acid sequence is a non-human constant region amino acid sequence, and the heavy chain constant region amino acid sequence comprises one or more of any of the types of modifications described above.

In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence is a human heavy chain constant region amino acid sequence, and the human heavy chain constant region amino acid sequence comprises one or more of any of the types of modifications described above.

In one embodiment, all or substantially all endogenous  $V_H$ , D, and  $J_H$  gene segments are deleted from an immunoglobulin 15 heavy chain locus or rendered non-functional (e.g., via insertion of a nucleotide sequence (e.g., an exogenous nucleotide sequence) in the immunoglobulin locus or via non-functional rearrangement, or inversion, of the endogenous  $V_H$ , D,  $J_H$  segments). In one embodiment, e.g., about 80% or more, about 85% or more, about 90% or more, about 95% or more, about 96% or more, about 97% or more, about 98% or more, or about 99% or more of all endogenous  $V_H$ , D, or  $J_H$  gene segments are deleted or rendered non-functional. In one embodiment, e.g., at least 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, or 99% of 25 endogenous functional  $V_H$ , D, or  $V_H$  gene segments are deleted or rendered non-functional.

In one embodiment, the genetically modified immunoglobulin heavy chain locus comprises a modification that deletes or renders, all or substantially all, non-functional endogenous  $V_H$ ,  $V_H$ 

In one embodiment, the genetically modified immunoglobulin locus comprises an endogenous Adam6a gene, Adam6b gene, or both, and the genetic modification does not affect the 45 expression and/or function of the endogenous Adam6a gene, Adam6b gene, or both.

In one embodiment, the genetically modified immunoglobulin locus comprises an ectopically present Adam6a gene, Adam6b gene, or both. In one embodiment, the Adam6a gene is a non-human Adam6a gene. In one embodiment, the Adam6a gene is a mouse Adam6a gene. In one embodiment, the Adam6a gene is a human Adam6a gene. In one embodiment, the Adam6b gene is a non-human Adam6b gene. In one embodiment, the Adam6b gene is a mouse Adam6b gene. In one embodiment, the Adam6b gene is a human Adam6b gene.

In one embodiment, the genetically modified immunoglobulin locus further comprises a humanized, unrearranged  $\lambda$  and/or  $\kappa$  light chain variable gene sequence. In one embodiment, the humanized, unrearranged  $\lambda$  and/or  $\kappa$  light chain  $_{60}$  variable gene sequence is operably linked to an immunoglobulin light chain constant region nucleotide sequence selected from a  $\lambda$  light chain constant region nucleotide sequence and a  $\kappa$  light chain constant region nucleotide sequence. In one embodiment, the humanized, unrearranged  $_{65}$   $\lambda$  light chain variable region nucleotide sequence is operably linked to a  $\lambda$  light chain constant region nucleotide sequence.

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In one embodiment, the  $\lambda$  light chain constant region nucleotide sequence is a mouse, rat, or human sequence. In one embodiment, the humanized, unrearranged  $\kappa$  light chain variable region nucleotide sequence is operably linked to a  $\kappa$  light chain constant region nucleotide sequence. In one embodiment, the  $\kappa$  light chain constant region nucleotide sequence is a mouse, rat, or human sequence.

In one embodiment, the genetically modified immunoglobulin locus comprises an unrearranged light chain variable gene sequence that contains at least one modification that introduces at least one histidine codon in at least one reading frame encoding a light chain variable domain. In one embodiment, the genetically modified immunoglobulin locus comprises a rearranged (e.g., a rearranged  $\lambda$  or  $\kappa$  V/J sequence) sequence that comprises one, two, three, or four codons for histidine in a light chain CDR. In one embodiment, the CDR is a selected from a CDR1, CDR2, CDR3, and a combination thereof. In one embodiment, the unrearranged or rearranged light chain variable region nucleotide sequence is an unrearranged or rearranged human  $\lambda$  or  $\kappa$  light chain variable region nucleotide sequence. In one embodiment, the unrearranged or rearranged human  $\lambda$  or  $\kappa$  light chain variable region nucleotide sequence is present at an endogenous mouse immunoglobulin light chain locus. In one embodiment, the mouse immunoglobulin light chain locus is a mouse  $\kappa$  locus. In one embodiment, the mouse immunoglobulin light chain locus is a mouse immunoglobulin light chain locus is a mouse  $\lambda$  locus.

In one embodiment, the genetically modified immunoglobulin locus as described herein is present in an immunoglobulin heavy chain locus of a mouse. In one embodiment, the genetically modified immunoglobulin locus is present in a humanized immunoglobulin heavy chain locus in a VELOCI-MMUNE® mouse.

In one embodiment, an antigen-binding protein comprising a heavy chain variable domain expressed by the genetically modified immunoglobulin heavy chain locus as described herein exhibits a weaker antigen binding at an acidic environment (e.g., at a pH of about 5.5 to about 6.0) than a corresponding wild-type heavy chain variable domain without the genetic modification.

In one embodiment, an antigen-binding protein comprising a heavy chain variable domain expressed by the genetically modified immunoglobulin heavy chain locus as described herein has a dissociative half-life  $(t_{1/2})$  of less than 2 min at an acidic pH (e.g., pH of about 5.5 to about 6.0) at 25° C. In one embodiment, an antigen-binding protein comprising a heavy chain variable domain expressed by the genetically modified immunoglobulin heavy chain locus as described herein has a dissociative half-life  $(t_{1/2})$  of less than 2 min at an acidic pH (e.g., pH of about 5.5 to about 6.0) at 37° C. In one embodiment, an antigen-binding protein comprising a heavy chain variable domain expressed by the genetically modified immunoglobulin heavy chain locus as described herein has a dissociative half-life  $(t_{1/2})$  of less than 1 min at an acidic pH (e.g., pH of about 5.5 to about 6.0) at 25° C. In one embodiment, an antigen-binding protein comprising a heavy chain variable domain expressed by the genetically modified immunoglobulin heavy chain locus as described herein has a dissociative half-life  $(t_{1/2})$  of less than 1 min at an acidic pH (e.g., pH of about 5.5 to about 6.0) at 37° C. In one embodiment, an antigen-binding protein comprising a heavy chain variable domain expressed by the genetically modified immunoglobulin locus as described herein has at least about 2-fold, at least about 3-fold, at least about 4-fold, at least about 5-fold, at least about 10-fold, at least about 15-fold, at least about 20-fold, at least about 25-fold, or at least about 30-fold decrease in dissociative half-life  $(t_{1/2})$  at

an acidic pH (e.g., pH of about 5.5 to about 6.0) as compared to the dissociative half-life ( $t_{1/2}$ ) of the antigen-binding protein at a neutral pH (e.g., pH of about 7.0 to about 7.4).

In one embodiment, an antigen-binding protein comprising a heavy chain variable domain expressed by the genetically modified immunoglobulin locus as described herein is characterized by improved pH-dependent recyclability, enhanced serum half-life, or both as compared with a wild-type antigen-binding protein without the genetic modification.

In one embodiment, the genetically modified immunoglobulin locus described herein comprises an enriched B cell population that, upon stimulation with an antigen of interest, is capable of producing antigen-binding proteins, e.g., antibodies, comprising a heavy chain variable domain comprising one or more histidine residues. The antigen-binding proteins as described herein, when administered into a subject, exhibits an increased serum half-life over a corresponding wild-type antigen-binding protein, which possesses a similar or sufficiently similar amino acid sequence that encodes the 20 heavy chain variable domain but does not comprise a histidine residue in the heavy chain variable domain. In some embodiments, the antigen-binding protein described herein exhibits an increased serum half-life that is at least about 2-fold, at least about 5-fold, at least about 10-fold, at least about 25 15-fold, at least about 20-fold higher than the corresponding wild-type antigen-binding protein, which possesses a similar or sufficiently similar amino acid sequence that encodes the heavy chain variable domain but does not comprise a histidine residue in the heavy chain variable domain.

In one aspect, a method for making a non-human animal that is capable of producing an immunoglobulin heavy chain variable domain with enhanced serum half-life and/or enhanced pH-dependent recyclability is provided, comprising

(a) modifying a genome of a non-human animal to delete or render non-functional endogenous immunoglobulin heavy chain V, D, and J gene segments (e.g., via insertion of a nucleotide sequence (e.g., an exogenous nucleotide sequence) in the immunoglobulin locus or via non-functional 40 rearrangement or inversion of endogenous  $V_H$ , D,  $J_H$  segments); and

(b) placing in the genome an unrearranged human heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence, wherein the unrearranged heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence 45 comprises an addition of least one histidine codon or a substitution of at least one endogenous non-histidine codon with a histidine codon, and wherein an antigen-binding protein comprising the immunoglobulin heavy chain variable domain produced by the non-human animal exhibits enhanced serum 50 half-life and/or enhanced pH-dependent recyclability as compared to a wild-type immunoglobulin heavy chain domain.

In one embodiment, the non-human animal, upon contact with an antigen, can produce an enriched population of B cell repertoire that expresses an antigen-binding protein with some enhanced serum half-life and/or enhanced pH-dependent recyclability, wherein the enriched B cell population comprises any genetic modifications as described herein.

or sufficiently similar amino acid sequence heavy chain variable domain but does not corresidue in the heavy chain variable domain. In one embodiment, the antigen-binding protein with some prize and produce an enriched population of B cell heavy chain variable domain but does not correctly in the heavy chain variable domain but does not correctly in the heavy chain variable domain but does not correctly in the heavy chain variable domain but does not correctly in the heavy chain variable domain. In one embodiment, the antigen-binding protein with some prize and produce an enriched population of B cell heavy chain variable domain but does not correctly in the heavy chain variable domain antigen-binding protein with some prize and produce an enriched population of B cell heavy chain variable domain. In one embodiment, the antigen-binding protein with some prize and produce an enriched population of B cell heavy chain variable domain but does not correctly and produce an enriched population of B cell heavy chain variable domain but does not correctly and produce an enriched population of B cell heavy chain variable domain but does not correctly and produce an enriched population of B cell heavy chain variable domain but does not correctly and produce an enriched population of B cell heavy chain variable domain.

In one embodiment, an antigen-binding protein produced by the genetically modified non-human animal is characterized by sufficient affinity to an antigen of interest at a neutral pH (e.g., pH of about 7.0 to about 7.4) and enhanced dissociation of the antibody from an antigen-antigen-binding protein complex at a pH less than the neutral pH (e.g., at an endosomal pH, e.g. pH of about 5.5 to 6.0).

In one embodiment, an antigen-binding protein comprising a heavy chain variable domain expressed by the geneti**62** 

cally modified immunoglobulin heavy chain locus as described herein has a dissociative half-life  $(t_{1/2})$  of less than 2 min at an acidic pH (e.g., pH of about 5.5 to about 6.0) at 25° C. In one embodiment, an antigen-binding protein comprising a heavy chain variable domain expressed by the genetically modified immunoglobulin heavy chain locus as described herein has a dissociative half-life  $(t_{1/2})$  of less than 2 min at an acidic pH (e.g., pH of about 5.5 to about 6.0) at 37° C. In one embodiment, an antigen-binding protein comprising a heavy chain variable domain expressed by the genetically modified immunoglobulin heavy chain locus as described herein has a dissociative half-life  $(t_{1/2})$  of less than 1 min at an acidic pH (e.g., pH of about 5.5 to about 6.0) at 25° C. In one embodiment, an antigen-binding protein comprising a heavy chain variable domain expressed by the genetically modified immunoglobulin heavy chain locus as described herein has a dissociative half-life  $(t_{1/2})$  of less than 1 min at an acidic pH (e.g., pH of about 5.5 to about 6.0) at 37° C. In one embodiment, an antigen-binding protein comprising a heavy chain variable domain expressed by the genetically modified immunoglobulin locus as described herein has at least about 2-fold, at least about 3-fold, at least about 4-fold, at least about 5-fold, at least about 10-fold, at least about 15-fold, at least about 20-fold, at least about 25-fold, or at least about 30-fold decrease in dissociative half-life  $(t_{1/2})$  at an acidic pH (e.g., pH of about 5.5 to about 6.0) as compared to the dissociative half-life  $(t_{1/2})$  of the antigen-binding protein at a neutral pH (e.g., pH of about 7.0 to about 7.4).

In one embodiment, an antigen-binding protein comprising a heavy chain variable domain expressed by the genetically modified immunoglobulin locus as described herein is
characterized by improved pH-dependent recyclability,
enhanced serum half-life, or both as compared with a wildtype antigen-binding protein without the genetic modification.

In one embodiment, the genetically modified immunoglobulin locus described herein comprises a an enriched B cell population that, upon stimulation with an antigen of interest, is capable of producing antigen-binding proteins, e.g., antibodies, comprising a heavy chain variable domain comprising one or more histidine residues. The antigen-binding proteins as described herein when administered into a subject, exhibits an increased serum half-life over a corresponding wild-type antigen-binding protein, which possesses a similar or sufficiently similar amino acid sequence that encodes the heavy chain variable domain but does not comprise a histidine residue in the heavy chain variable domain. In some embodiments, the antigen-binding protein described herein exhibits an increased serum half-life that is at least about 2-fold, at least about 5-fold, at least about 10-fold, at least about 15-fold, at least about 20-fold higher than the corresponding wild-type antigen-binding protein, which possesses a similar or sufficiently similar amino acid sequence that encodes the heavy chain variable domain but does not comprise a histidine

In one embodiment, the antigen-binding protein comprises an immunoglobulin heavy chain variable domain that is capable of specifically binding an antigen of interest with an affinity  $(K_D)$  lower than  $10^{-6}$ ,  $10^{-7}$ ,  $10^{-8}$ ,  $10^{-9}$ ,  $10^{-10}$ ,  $10^{-11}$ , and  $10^{-12}$  at a neutral pH (e.g., pH of about 7.0 to about 7.4).

In one aspect, a method for obtaining an antigen-binding protein with enhanced recyclability and/or improved serum half-life is provided, comprising:

(a) immunizing a non-human animal having a genetically modified immunoglobulin locus as described herein wherein the non-human animal comprises an unrearranged human heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence comprising

an addition of least one histidine codon or a substitution of at least one endogenous non-histidine codon with a histidine codon:

- (b) allowing the non-human animal to mount an immune response;
- (c) harvesting a lymphocyte (e.g., a B cell) from the immunized non-human animal;
- (d) fusing the lymphocyte with a myeloma cell to form a hybridoma cell, and
- (e) obtaining an antigen-binding protein produced by the ¹⁰ hybridoma cell, wherein the antigen-binding protein exhibits enhanced recyclability and/or serum stability.

In one aspect, a genetically modified immunoglobulin heavy chain locus obtainable by any of the methods as described herein is provided.

In one aspect, a genetically modified non-human animal obtainable by any of the methods as described herein is provided.

In various embodiments, the non-human animal is a mammal. In one embodiment, the mammal is a rodent, e.g., a  20  mouse, a rat, or a hamster.

In various embodiments, the genetically modified immunoglobulin loci as described herein are present in the germline genome of a non-human animal, e.g., a mammal, e.g., a rodent, e.g., a mouse, a rat, or a hamster.

### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIGS. 1A and 1B illustrate the amino acid sequences encoded by the three reading frames (i.e., stop, hydrophilic, 30 and hydrophobic reading frames) of human D gene segments (D) and the amino acid sequences encoded by the three reading frames of histidine-substituted human D gene segments (HD). Introduction of histidine codons (typed in bold) in the hydrophilic reading frame also changed many stop codons in 35 the stop reading frame to Ser codons (typed in bold) but introduced few changes in the hydrophobic reading frame. The "**" symbol represents a stop codon, and the comma between the two SEQ ID NOs indicates that there are two amino acid sequences separated by the stop codon.

FIG. 2 illustrates schemes for targeting pLMa0174 containing a spectinomycin selection cassette into the 5' end of MAID 1116 (Step 1. BHR (Spec)). In Step 1, a chloramphenicol selection cassette, a neomycin selection cassette, a loxP site, two  $V_H$  gene segments (h $V_H$ 1-3 and h $V_H$ 1-2), the human 45 Adam6 gene, all of which are located upstream of h $V_H$ 6-1, were deleted from the clone and replaced by a spectinomycin cassette to yield the V1433 clone. In Step 2 (BHR (Hyg+Spec)), pNTu0002 containing a hygromycin cassette flanked by FRT sites was targeted into a region comprising human 50 immunoglobulin D gene segments. Via Step 2, all human D gene segments were deleted from V1433 and replaced with the hygromycin cassette to yield MAID6011 VI 434 (clone 1).

FIG. 3 illustrates schemes for assembling histidine-substituted human D gene segments via sequential ligation.

FIG. 4 illustrates the introduction of pre-assembled, histidine-substituted human D gene segments containing a neomycin cassette into a region between the most D-proximal  $V_H$  gene segment ( $V_H$ 6-1) and the most D-proximal  $J_H$  gene segment ( $J_H$ 1) via enzyme-mediated digestion (PI-SceI and I-CeuI) and ligation. This process removes the hygromycin cassette from MAID 6011 V1434 and introduces pre-assembled human histidine-substituted D gene segments into the clone. Bacterial cells comprising a successfully targeted 65 clone are selected based on both neomycin and spectinomycin resistance. The resulting clone (MAID6012 V1469) com-

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prises, from 5' to 3', (1) a spectinomycin selection cassette, (2) a 50 kb arm comprising a human  $V_H$  gene segment ( $V_H$ 6-1), (3) a neomycin cassette flanked by loxP sites, (4) human D gene segments containing histidine substitutions (HD 1.1-6.6 (9586 bp; SEQ ID NO: 1), HD 1.7-6.13 (9268 bp; SEQ ID NO: 2), HD 1.14-6.19 (9441 bp; SEQ ID NO: 3), and HD 1.20-6.25, 1.26 (11592 bp; SEQ ID NO: 4)), (5) about 25 kb of a genomic region containing human  $J_H$  gene segments, (6) a mouse E, sequence (SEQ ID NO: 5; an intronic enhancer that promotes  $V_H$  to  $DJ_H$  rearrangement in developing B cells), and (7) a mouse IgM constant region nucleotide sequence (mIgM exon 1; SEQ ID NO: 7).

FIG. 5 illustrates schemes for deleting the human immunoglobulin heavy chain D gene region from the MAID 1460 heterozygous ES cells by targeting the 129 strain-derived chromosome of MAID 1460 het with the hygromycin selection cassette in MAID 6011 V1434.

FIG. **6** shows a list of primers and probes used to confirm a loss of allele (LOA), a gain of allele (GOA), or a parental allele (Parental) in the screening assays for identifying MAID 6011

FIG. 7 illustrates schemes for constructing MAID 6012 het by targeting MAID 6011 heterozygous ES cells with MAID 6012 V1469. Electroporation of the MAID 6012 V1469 construct into the MAID 6011 heterozygous ES cells yielded MAID 6012 heterozygous ES cells in which the 129 strainderived chromosome is modified to contain, from 5' to 3' direction, an FRT site, human  $\mathbf{V}_{\!H}$  gene segments, a mouse genomic region comprising adam6 genes, a floxed neomycin selection cassette, human D gene segments comprising histidine substitutions (HD 1.1-6.6 (9586 bp; SEQ ID NO: 1), HD 1.7-6.13 (9268 bp; SEQ ID NO: 2), HD 1.14-6.19 (9441 bp; SEQ ID NO: 3), and HD 1.20-6.25, 1.26 (11592 bp; SEQ ID NO: 4)), human  $\mathbf{J}_{H}$  gene segments, a mouse  $\mathbf{E}_{i}$  sequence (SEQ ID NO: 5; an intronic enhancer that promotes  $V_H$  to  $DJ_H$ rearrangement in developing B cells), and a mouse IgM constant region nucleotide sequence (mIgM exon 1; SEQ ID NO:

FIG. **8** shows a list of primers and probes used to confirm a loss of allele (LOA), a gain of allele (GOA), or a parental allele (Parental) in the screening assay for identifying MAID 6012

FIG. 9 illustrates schemes for removing a neomycin cassette from MAID 6012 heterozygous ES cells. Electroporation of a Cre-expressing plasmid into the MAID 6012 ES cells lead to recombination and deletion of the floxed neomycin cassette, yielding MAID 6013 heterozygous ES cells.

FIGS. 10A-10E illustrate human D gene segment nucleotide sequences with translations for each of the six reading frames, i.e., three reading frames for direct 5' to 3' orientation and three reading frames for inverted orientation (3' to 5' orientation). The "*" symbol represents a stop codon, and the comma between two SEQ ID NOs indicates that there are two amino acid sequences separated by the stop codon.

FIGS. 11-13 illustrate mRNA sequences and their encoded protein sequences expressed by 6013 F0 heterozygous mice, which comprise histidine-substituted human D gene segments (HD 1.1-6.6 (9586 bp; SEQ ID NO: 1), HD 1.7-6.13 (9268 bp; SEQ ID NO: 2), HD 1.14-6.19 (9441 bp; SEQ ID NO: 3), and HD 1.20-6.25, 1.26 (11592 bp; SEQ ID NO: 4)) in the immunoglobulin heavy chain locus in their 129 strain-derived chromosome. The boxed sequences in each figure indicate the presence of histidine codons in the CDR3 sequences derived from the genetically modified immunoglobulin heavy chain locus comprising the histidine-substituted human D gene segments. FWR represents frame region and CDR represents complementarity determining region. In the

alignment, the dot "." indicates a sequence identical to the query sequence, and the dash "-" indicates a gap in the sequence.

FIG. 14 illustrates histidine incorporation frequency in immunoglobulin heavy chain CDR3 sequences. The X-axis represents the number of histidine codons appeared in each CDR3 sequence, and the Y-axis represents the corresponding proportion of reads. The "6013 F0 het" indicates CDR3 sequences expressed by the 6013 heterozygous mice comprising histidine-substituted D gene segments. The "V13-Adam6" indicates CDR3 sequences obtained from control mice comprising human  $V_H$ , D, and  $J_H$  gene segments without the histidine modification as described herein. The "ASAP" indicates CDR3 sequences obtained from the Regeneron antibody database, which was used as another control.

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

This invention is not limited to particular methods, and experimental conditions described, as such methods and conditions may vary. It is also to be understood that the terminology used herein is for the purpose of describing particular embodiments only, and is not intended to be limiting, since the scope of the present invention is defined by the claims.

Unless defined otherwise, all terms and phrases used herein 25 include the meanings that the terms and phrases have attained in the art, unless the contrary is clearly indicated or clearly apparent from the context in which the term or phrase is used. Although any methods and materials similar or equivalent to those described herein can be used in the practice or testing of 30 the present invention, particular methods and materials are now described. All publications mentioned are hereby incorporated by reference

#### **DEFINITIONS**

The term "complementary determining region" or "CDR," as used herein, includes an amino acid sequence encoded by a nucleic acid sequence of an organism's immunoglobulin genes that normally (i.e., in a wild type animal) appears 40 between two framework regions in a variable region of a light or a heavy chain of an immunoglobulin molecule (e.g., an antibody or a T cell receptor). A CDR can be encoded by, for example, a germline sequence or a rearranged sequence, and, for example, by a naïve or a mature B cell or a T cell. A CDR 45 can be somatically mutated (e.g., vary from a sequence encoded in an animal's germline), humanized, and/or modified with amino acid substitutions, additions, or deletions. In some circumstances (e.g., for a CDR3), CDRs can be encoded by two or more sequences (e.g., germline sequences) 50 that are not contiguous (e.g., in an unrearranged nucleic acid sequence) but are contiguous in a B cell nucleic acid sequence, e.g., as a result of splicing or connecting the sequences (e.g., V-D-J recombination to form a heavy chain

The term "dissociative half-life" or " $t_{12}$ " as used herein refers to the value calculated by the following formula:  $t_{1/2}$  (min)=(In2/ $k_d$ )/60, wherein  $k_d$  represents a dissociation rate constant.

The term "germline" in reference to an immunoglobulin 60 nucleic acid sequence includes a nucleic acid sequence that can be passed to progeny.

The phrase "heavy chain," or "immunoglobulin heavy chain" includes an immunoglobulin heavy chain sequence, including immunoglobulin heavy chain constant region 65 sequence, from any organism. Heavy chain variable domains include three heavy chain CDRs and four FR regions, unless

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otherwise specified. Fragments of heavy chains include CDRs, CDRs and FRs, and combinations thereof. A typical heavy chain has, following the variable domain (from N-terminal to C-terminal), a  $C_H$ 1 domain, a hinge, a  $C_H$ 2 domain, and a C_H3 domain. A functional fragment of a heavy chain includes a fragment that is capable of specifically recognizing an epitope (e.g., recognizing the epitope with a  $\mathbf{K}_D$  in the micromolar, nanomolar, or picomolar range), that is capable of expressing and secreting from a cell, and that comprises at least one CDR. Heavy chain variable domains are encoded by variable region nucleotide sequence, which generally comprises  $V_H$ ,  $D_H$ , and  $J_H$  segments derived from a repertoire of  $V_H$ ,  $D_H$ , and  $J_H$  segments present in the germline. Sequences, locations and nomenclature for V, D, and J heavy chain segments for various organisms can be found in IMGT database, which is accessible via the internet on the world wide web (www) at the URL "imgt.org."

The phrase "light chain" includes an immunoglobulin light chain sequence from any organism, and unless otherwise specified includes human kappa ( $\kappa$ ) and lambda ( $\lambda$ ) light chains and a VpreB, as well as surrogate light chains. Light chain variable domains typically include three light chain CDRs and four framework (FR) regions, unless otherwise specified. Generally, a full-length light chain includes, from amino terminus to carboxyl terminus, a variable domain that includes FR1-CDR1-FR2-CDR2-FR3-CDR3-FR4, and a light chain constant region amino acid sequence. Light chain variable domains are encoded by the light chain variable region nucleotide sequence, which generally comprises light chain  $V_L$  and light chain  $J_L$  gene segments, derived from a repertoire of light chain V and J gene segments present in the germline. Sequences, locations and nomenclature for light chain V and J gene segments for various organisms can be found in IMGT database, which is accessible via the internet 35 on the world wide web (www) at the URL "imgt.org." Light chains include those, e.g., that do not selectively bind either a first or a second epitope selectively bound by the epitopebinding protein in which they appear. Light chains also include those that bind and recognize, or assist the heavy chain with binding and recognizing, one or more epitopes selectively bound by the epitope-binding protein in which they appear.

The phrase "operably linked" refers to a relationship wherein the components operably linked function in their intended manner. In one instance, a nucleic acid sequence encoding a protein may be operably linked to regulatory sequences (e.g., promoter, enhancer, silencer sequence, etc.) so as to retain proper transcriptional regulation. In one instance, a nucleic acid sequence of an immunoglobulin variable region (or V(D)J segments) may be operably linked to a nucleic acid sequence of an immunoglobulin constant region so as to allow proper recombination between the sequences into an immunoglobulin heavy or light chain sequence.

The phrase "somatically mutated," as used herein, includes reference to a nucleic acid sequence from a B cell that has undergone class-switching, wherein the nucleic acid sequence of an immunoglobulin variable region, e.g., a heavy chain variable region (e.g., a heavy chain variable domain or including a heavy chain CDR or FR sequence) in the class-switched B cell is not identical to the nucleic acid sequence in the B cell prior to class-switching, such as, for example a difference in a CDR or a framework nucleic acid sequence between a B cell that has not undergone class-switching and a B cell that has undergone class-switching. The phrase "somatically mutated" includes reference to nucleic acid sequences from affinity-matured B cells that are not identical to corresponding immunoglobulin variable region nucleotide

sequences in B cells that are not affinity-matured (i.e., sequences in the genome of germline cells). The phrase "somatically matured" also includes reference to an immunoglobulin variable region nucleic acid sequence from a B cell after exposure of the B cell to an epitope of interest, wherein the nucleic acid sequence differs from the corresponding nucleic acid sequence prior to exposure of the B cell to the epitope of interest. The term "somatically mutated" also refers to sequences from antibodies that have been generated in an animal, e.g., a mouse having human immunoglobulin variable region nucleic acid sequences, in response to an immunogen challenge, and that result from the selection processes inherently operative in such an animal.

Non-Human Animals that Express Immunoglobulin Heavy  $_{15}$  Chain Variable Domain Comprising Histidine Residues

The described invention provides genetically modified non-human animals that can produce antigen-binding proteins with pH-dependent antigen binding characteristics. In various embodiments, the antigen-binding proteins produced 20 by the genetically modified non-human animals as described herein exhibit increased pH-dependent recycling efficiency and/or enhanced serum half-life. In particular, the described invention employs genetic modifications in the immunoglobulin heavy chain locus to introduce histidine codons into a 25 human heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence and, optionally, to introduce a mutation(s) in a constant region nucleotide sequence that encodes  $C_H 2$  and/or  $C_H 3$  domains that increases the binding of the antibody constant region to an FcRn receptor, which facilitates recycling of the antigenbinding protein. Antigen-binding proteins comprising the modification may more loosely bind its target in an acidic intracellular compartment (e.g., in an endosome where pH ranges from about 5.5 to about 6.0) than in an extracellular environment or at the surface of a cell (i.e., at a physiological 35 pH, e.g., a pH ranging from about 7.0 to about 7.4) due to protonated histidine residues located in the antigen binding sites. Therefore, the antigen-biding proteins comprising the genetic modifications as described herein would be able to be recycled more rapidly or efficiently than wild-type antigen- 40 binding proteins that do not comprise such genetic modifications following target-mediated endocytosis. Furthermore, since the modified histidine residues are protonated only in an acidic environment, but not at a neutral pH, it is expected that such modification would not affect binding affinity and/or 45 specificity of the antigen-binding protein toward an antigen of interest at a physiological pH.

In various aspects, non-human animals are provided comprising immunoglobulin heavy chain loci that comprise an unrearranged human heavy chain variable region nucleotide 50 sequence, wherein the unrearranged human heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence comprises an addition of least one histidine codon or a substitution of at least one endogenous non-histidine codon with a histidine codon.

In various aspects, methods of making and using the non-human animals are also provided. When immunized with an antigen of interest, the genetically modified non-human animals are capable of generating B cell populations that produce antigen-binding proteins comprising heavy chain variable domains with histidine residues, wherein the antigen-binding proteins exhibit enhanced pH-dependent recycling and/or increased serum half-life. In various embodiments, the non-human animals generate B cell populations that express human heavy chain variable domains along with cognate human light chain variable domains. In various embodiments, 65 the genetically modified immunoglobulin heavy chain loci are present in a germline genome of the non-human animal.

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In various embodiments, the genetically modified immunoglobulin heavy chain locus comprises a modification that deletes or renders, all or substantially all, non-functional endogenous  $V_H$ , D, and  $J_H$  gene segments; and the genetically modified locus comprises an unrearranged heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence comprising one or more human  $V_H$ , D, and/or  $J_H$  gene segments having one or more histidine codons, wherein the unrearranged heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence is present at an endogenous location (i.e., where the nucleotide sequence is located in a wild-type non-human animal) or present ectopically (e.g., at a locus different from the endogenous immunoglobulin chain locus in its genome, or within its endogenous locus, e.g., within an immunoglobulin variable locus, wherein the endogenous locus is placed or moved to a different location in the genome). In one embodiment, e.g., about 80% or more, about 85% or more, about 90% or more, about 95% or more, about 96% or more, about 97% or more, about 98% or more, or about 99% or more of all endogenous heavy chain V, D, or J gene segments are deleted or rendered non-functional. In one embodiment, e.g., at least 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, or 99% of endogenous functional heavy chain V, D, or J gene segments are deleted or rendered non-functional.

In one embodiment, the non-human animal is a mammal. Although embodiments directed to introducing histidine codons into an unrearranged human heavy chain variable gene sequence in a mouse are extensively discussed herein, other non-human animals are also provided that comprise a genetically modified immunoglobulin locus containing an unrearranged human heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence comprising an addition of least one histidine codon or a substitution of at least one endogenous non-histidine codon with a histidine codon. Such non-human animals include any of those which can be genetically modified to express the histidine-containing heavy chain variable domain as disclosed herein, including, e.g., mouse, rat, rabbit, pig, bovine (e.g., cow, bull, buffalo), deer, sheep, goat, chicken, cat, dog, ferret, primate (e.g., marmoset, rhesus monkey), etc. For example, for those non-human animals for which suitable genetically modifiable ES cells are not readily available, other methods are employed to make a non-human animal comprising the genetic modification. Such methods include, e.g., modifying a non-ES cell genome (e.g., a fibroblast or an induced pluripotent cell) and employing somatic cell nuclear transfer (SCNT) to transfer the genetically modified genome to a suitable cell, e.g., an enucleated oocyte, and gestating the modified cell (e.g., the modified oocyte) in a non-human animal under suitable conditions to form an embryo. Methods for modifying a non-human animal genome (e.g., a pig, cow, rodent, chicken, etc. genome) include, e.g., employing a zinc finger nuclease (ZFN) or a transcription activator-like effector nuclease (TALEN) to modify a genome to include a nucleotides sequence that encodes

In one embodiment, the non-human animal is a small mammal, e.g., of the superfamily Dipodoidea or Muroidea. In one embodiment, the genetically modified animal is a rodent. In one embodiment, the rodent is selected from a mouse, a rat, and a hamster. In one embodiment, the rodent is selected from the superfamily Muroidea. In one embodiment, the genetically modified animal is from a family selected from Calomyscidae (e.g., mouse-like hamsters), Cricetidae (e.g., hamster, New World rats and mice, voles), Muridae (true mice and rats, gerbils, spiny mice, crested rats), Nesomyidae (climbing mice, rock mice, with-tailed rats, Malagasy rats and mice), Platacanthomyidae (e.g., spiny dormice), and Spalacidae (e.g., mole rates, bamboo rats, and zokors). In a specific embodiment, the genetically modified rodent is selected from

a true mouse or rat (family Muridae), a gerbil, a spiny mouse, and a crested rat. In one embodiment, the genetically modified mouse is from a member of the family Muridae. In one embodiment, the animal is a rodent. In a specific embodiment, the rodent is selected from a mouse and a rat. In one 5 embodiment, the non-human animal is a mouse.

In one embodiment, the non-human animal is a rodent that is a mouse of a C57BL strain selected from C57BL/A, C57BL/An, C57BL/GrFa, C57BL/KaLwN, C57BL/6, C57BL/6J, C57BL/6ByJ, C57BL/6N, C57BL/6NJ, C57BL/ 10 10, C57BL/10ScSn, C57BL/10Cr, and C57BL/Ola. In another embodiment, the mouse is a 129 strain. In one embodiment, the 129 strain is selected from the group consisting of 129P1, 129P2, 129P3, 129X1, 129S1 (e.g., 129S1/ SV, 129S1/Svlm), 129S2, 129S4, 129S5, 129S9/SvEvH, 15 129S6 (129/SvEvTac), 129S7, 129S8, 129T1, 129T2 (see, e.g., Festing et al. (1999) Revised nomenclature for strain 129 mice, Mammalian Genome 10:836, see also, Auerbach et al. (2000) Establishment and Chimera Analysis of 129/SvEvand C57BL/6-Derived Mouse Embryonic Stem Cell Lines). 20 In one embodiment, the genetically modified mouse is a mix of an aforementioned 129 strain and an aforementioned C57BL strain (e.g., a C57BL/6 strain). In another embodiment, the mouse is a mix of aforementioned 129 strains, or a mix of aforementioned C57BL/6 strains. In one embodiment, 25 the 129 strain of the mix is a 129S6 (129/SvEvTac) strain. In another embodiment, the mouse is a mix of a 129/SvEv- and a C57BL/6-derived strain. In a specific embodiment, the mouse is a mix of a 129/SvEv- and a C57BL/6-derived strain as described in Auerbach et al. 2000 Bio Techniques 29:1024-30 1032. In another embodiment, the mouse is a BALB strain, e.g., BALB/c strain. In another embodiment, the mouse is a mix of a BALB strain (e.g., BALB/c strain) and another aforementioned strain.

In one embodiment, the non-human animal is a rat. In one 35 embodiment, the rat is selected from a Wistar rat, an LEA strain, a Sprague Dawley strain, a Fischer strain, F344, F6, and Dark Agouti. In one embodiment, the rat strain is a mix of two or more of a strain selected from the group consisting of Wistar, LEA, Sprague Dawley, Fischer, F344, F6, and Dark 40 Agouti.

In one embodiment, the non-human animal is a mouse. In one embodiment, the mouse is a VELOCIMMUNE® humanized mouse.

VELOCIMMUNE® humanized mice (see, e.g., U.S. Pat. 45 No. 6,596,541, U.S. Pat. No. 7,105,348, and US20120322108A1, which are incorporated herein by reference in their entireties), which contain a precise replacement of mouse immunoglobulin variable regions with human immunoglobulin variable regions at the endogenous mouse 50 loci, display a surprising and remarkable similarity to wild-type mice with respect to B cell development. VELOCIMMUNE® humanized mice display an essentially normal, wild-type response to immunization that differed only in one significant respect from wild-type mice—the variable regions 55 generated in response to immunization are fully human.

VELOCIMMUNE® humanized mice contain a precise, large-scale replacement of germline variable region nucleotide sequences of mouse immunoglobulin heavy chain (IgH) and immunoglobulin light chain (e.g., κ light chain, Igκ) with 60 corresponding human immunoglobulin variable region nucleotide sequences, at the endogenous loci (see, e.g., U.S. Pat. No. 6,596,541, U.S. Pat. No. 7,105,348, US 20120322108A1, which are incorporated herein by reference in their entireties). In total, about six megabases of mouse loci 65 are replaced with about 1.5 megabases of human genomic sequence. This precise replacement results in a mouse with

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hybrid immunoglobulin loci that make heavy and light chains that have a human variable regions and a mouse constant region. The precise replacement of mouse  $V_H\text{-}D\text{-}J_H$  and  $V\kappa\text{-}J\kappa$  segments leave flanking mouse sequences intact and functional at the hybrid immunoglobulin loci. The humoral immune system of the mouse functions like that of a wild-type mouse. B cell development is unhindered in any significant respect and a rich diversity of human variable regions is generated in the mouse upon antigen challenge.

VELOCIMMUNE® humanized mice are possible because immunoglobulin gene segments for heavy and  $\kappa$  light chains rearrange similarly in humans and mice, which is not to say that their loci are the same or even nearly so—clearly they are not. However, the loci are similar enough that humanization of the heavy chain variable gene locus can be accomplished by replacing about three million base pairs of contiguous mouse sequence that contains all the  $V_{\it H}$ , D, and  $J_{\it H}$  gene segments with about one million bases of contiguous human genomic sequence covering basically the equivalent sequence from a human immunoglobulin locus.

In some embodiments, further replacement of certain mouse constant region nucleotide sequences with human constant region nucleotide sequences (e.g., replacement of mouse heavy chain C_H1 nucleotide sequence with human heavy chain  $C_H 1$  nucleotide sequence, and replacement of mouse light chain constant region nucleotide sequence with human light chain constant region nucleotide sequence) results in mice with hybrid immunoglobulin loci that make antibodies that have human variable regions and partly human constant regions, suitable for, e.g., making fully human antibody fragments, e.g., fully human Fab's. Mice with hybrid immunoglobulin loci exhibit normal variable gene segment rearrangement, normal somatic hypermutation frequencies, and normal class switching. These mice exhibit a humoral immune system that is indistinguishable from wild type mice, and display normal cell populations at all stages of B cell development and normal lymphoid organ structureseven where the mice lack a full repertoire of human variable region nucleotide segments. Immunizing these mice results in robust humoral responses that display a wide diversity of variable gene segment usage.

The precise replacement of the mouse germline variable region nucleotide sequence allows for making mice that have partly human immunoglobulin loci. Because the partly human immunoglobulin loci rearrange, hypermutate, and class switch normally, the partly human immunoglobulin loci generate antibodies in a mouse that comprise human variable regions. Nucleotide sequences that encode the variable regions can be identified and cloned, then fused (e.g., in an in vitro system) with any sequences of choice, e.g., any immunoglobulin isotype suitable for a particular use, resulting in an antibody or antigen-binding protein derived wholly from human sequences.

wild-type response to immunization that differed only in one significant respect from wild-type mice—the variable regions generated in response to immunization are fully human.

VELOCIMMUNE® humanized mice contain a precise,

In various embodiments, at least one histidine codon is present in an unrearranged heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence that encodes an N-terminal region, a loop 4 region, a CDR1, a CDR2, a CDR3, or a combination thereof.

In various embodiments, at least one histidine codon is present in an unrearranged heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence that encodes a framework region (FR) selected from the group consisting of FR1, FR2, FR3, and FR4

In various aspects, the genetically modified immunoglobulin locus comprises a nucleotide sequence wherein at least one codon has been replaced with a histidine codon.

In various aspects, the genetically modified immunoglobulin locus comprises an unrearranged human heavy chain vari-

able region nucleotide sequence comprising a substitution of at least one endogenous non-histidine codon with a histidine

In one embodiment, 2 or more, 3 or more, 4 or more, 5 or more, 6 or more, 7 or more, 8 or more, 9 or more, 10 or more, 5 11 or more, 12 or more, 13 or more, 14 or more, 15 or more, 16 or more, 17 or more, 18 or more, 19 or more, 20 or more, 21 or more, 22 or more, 23 or more, 24 or more, 25 or more, 26 or more, 27 or more, 28 or more, 29 or more, 30 or more, 31 or more, 32 or more, 33 or more, 34 or more, 35 or more, 10 36 or more, 37 or more, 38 or more, 39 or more, 40 or more, 41 or more, 42 or more, 43 or more, 44 or more, 45 or more, 46 or more, 47 or more, 48 or more, 49 or more, 50 or more, 51 or more, 52 or more, 53 or more, 54 or more, 55 or more, 56 or more, 57 or more, 58 or more, 59 or more, 60 or more, 15 or 61 or more of the endogenous non-histidine codons are replaced with histidine codons.

Previous studies on reading frame usage of human immunoglobulin D gene segments have shown that, of the three reading frames (i.e., stop, hydrophobic, and hydrophilic), the 20 stop frame is used very infrequently. Apparently, some stop frames are chewed back and result in expression. However, stop reading frames are used at such a low frequency that for the purposes of engineering histidine codons, it is more efficient not to use the stop reading frame. As between hydro- 25 philic and hydrophobic reading frames, the hydrophilic reading frame appears to be preferred. Thus, in one embodiment, the hydrophilic reading frame of human D gene segments is engineered to contain one or more histidine codons (as compared with the stop frame or with the hydrophobic frame).

Methods of introducing a mutation in vitro, e.g., site-directed mutagenesis, are well known in the art. In some embodiments of the described invention, histidine codons are enriched by designing histidine-substituted human D gene segments in silico (e.g., mutation of Y, D, and N codons to H 35 codons, e.g., CAT, CAC), which are synthesized (e.g., chemical synthesis) with (unique) restriction enzyme sites for ligating them back together. The synthesized D gene segments are made with the appropriate recombination signal sequences (RSS) upstream and downstream. In one embodiment, when 40 ligated to one another, the synthesized histidine-substituted D gene segments include the intergenic sequences observed in a human between each D gene segment.

It is understood that the codons that encode the one or more histidines, upon rearrangement and/or somatic hypermuta- 45 tion, may change such that one or more of the histidines will be changed to another amino acid. However, this may not occur for each and every codon encoding histidine, in each and every rearrangement in the non-human animal. If such changes occur, the changes may occur in some but not all B 50 cells or in some but not all heavy chain variable sequences.

In various aspects, the genetically modified immunoglobulin locus comprises a human heavy chain V, D, and J gene segment, wherein at least one of the human D gene segment wild-type sequence, and wherein at least one reading frame of the inverted human D gene segment comprises a histidine codon.

In various embodiments, the nucleotide sequence comprises one or more, 2 or more, 3 or more, 4 or more, 5 or more, 60 6 or more, 7 or more, 8 or more, 9 or more, 10 or more, 11 or more, 12 or more, 13 or more, 14 or more, 15 or more, 16 or more, 17 or more, 18 or more, 19 or more, 20 or more, 21 or more, 22 or more, 23 or more, 24 or more, or 25 or more of histidine codons.

There are 25 functional human D gene segments in 6 families of 3-5 members each (one family—the D7 family—has a 72

single member). Direct recombination of human D gene segments is much more frequent than inversion, although inverted reading frames exhibit more histidine codons. Certain D gene segments and reading frames are used more frequently than others. All three direct reading frames and all three inverted orientation reading frames for all the functional D gene segments are presented in FIGS. 10A-10E. As shown in FIGS. 10A-10E, there are many more histidine codons in inverted reading frames than in direct reading frames. More specifically, there are 34 histidines in inverted reading frames and only four in direct reading frames. In addition, of the four in direct reading frames, three histidines are encoded by pseudogenes or present in alternate alleles. Therefore, there is only a single direct reading frame of a germline human D gene segment that contains a histidine codon, with further histidine codons possibly encountered in alternate alleles (presumably in subsets of the human population).

Inverted D rearrangements are extremely rare. Tuaillon et al. (J. Immunol., 154(12): 5453-6465, incorporated by reference herein in its entirety) showed that usage of inverted reading frames (as measured by limiting dilution PCT) is very rare, i.e., that the ratio of direct to indirect rearrangements are, in most cases, 100 to 1000. To the extent that the ratio of direct to indirect rearrangement was low, it was only observed in those D segments that exhibit very low usage. It was also shown that D gene segment family 7, which is located adjacent to J1 (far down from other D family members) is mostly used in fetuses, but exhibits a low usage in adults (Schroeder et al., Immunology 30, 2006, 119-135, incorporated by reference herein in its entirety). Therefore, in one embodiment, D family 7 sequences are not inverted 5' to 3'.

In one embodiment, at least two, at least three, at least four, at least five, at least six, at least seven, at least eight, at least nine, at least ten, at least eleven, at least twelve, at least thirteen, at least fourteen, at least fifteen, at least sixteen, at least seventeen, at least eighteen, at least nineteen, at least twenty, at least twenty one, at least twenty two, at least twenty three, at least twenty four, or all or substantially all of the human functional D gene segments are inverted 5' to 3' with respect to corresponding wild type sequences.

In one embodiment, the human immunoglobulin heavy chain variable domain comprising at least one non-naturally occurring histidine residue exhibits pH-dependent antigen binding characteristics. For example, an antibody comprising the modified immunoglobulin heavy chain variable domain binds a target with sufficient affinity at around a neutral pH (e.g., pH of about 7.0 to about 7.4), but either does not bind or binds weaker to the same target at an acidic pH (e.g., pH of about 5.5 to about 6.0). In one embodiment, the acidic pH is selected from about 5.5, about 5.6, about 5.7, about 5.8, about 5.9, and about 6.0. In one embodiment, the neutral pH is selected from about 7.0, about 7.1, about 7.2, about 7.3, and about 7.4.

In one embodiment, an antigen-binding protein comprishas been inverted 5' to 3' with respect to a corresponding 55 ing a heavy chain variable domain expressed by the genetically modified immunoglobulin heavy chain locus as described herein has a dissociative half-life  $(t_{1/2})$  of less than 2 min at an acidic pH (e.g., pH of about 5.5 to about 6.0) at 25° C. In one embodiment, an antigen-binding protein comprising a heavy chain variable domain expressed by the genetically modified immunoglobulin heavy chain locus as described herein has a dissociative half-life  $(t_{1/2})$  of less than 2 min at an acidic pH (e.g., pH of about 5.5 to about 6.0) at 37° C. In one embodiment, an antigen-binding protein comprising a heavy chain variable domain expressed by the genetically modified immunoglobulin heavy chain locus as described herein has a dissociative half-life  $(t_{1/2})$  of less than

1 min at an acidic pH (e.g., pH of about 5.5 to about 6.0) at 25° C. In one embodiment, an antigen-binding protein comprising a heavy chain variable domain expressed by the genetically modified immunoglobulin heavy chain locus as described herein has a dissociative half-life  $(t_{1/2})$  of less than 1 min at an acidic pH (e.g., pH of about 5.5 to about 6.0) at 37° C. In one embodiment, an antigen-binding protein comprising a heavy chain variable domain expressed by the genetically modified immunoglobulin locus as described herein has at least about 2-fold, at least about 3-fold, at least about 10 4-fold, at least about 5-fold, at least about 10-fold, at least about 15-fold, at least about 20-fold, at least about 25-fold, or at least about 30-fold decrease in dissociative half-life  $(t_{1/2})$  at an acidic pH (e.g., pH of about 5.5 to about 6.0) as compared to the dissociative half-life  $(t_{1/2})$  of the antigen-binding protein at a neutral pH (e.g., pH of about 7.0 to about 7.4).

In one embodiment, antigen binding proteins comprising the genetically modified human immunoglobulin heavy chain variable domain is capable of specifically binding an antigen of interest with an affinity  $(K_D)$  lower than  $10^{-6}$ ,  $10^{-7}$ ,  $10^{-8}$ ,  $20 \cdot 10^{-9}$  or  $10^{-10}$ ,  $10^{-11}$ ,  $10^{-12}$  at a neutral or physiological pH (pH of about 7.0 to about 7.4).

The altered binding property of the immunoglobulin heavy chain variable domain at an acidic pH (e.g., pH of about 5.5 to about 6.0) would, in some circumstances, allow faster turnover of the antibody because the therapeutic antibody will bind a target on a cell's surface, be internalized into an endosome, and more readily or more rapidly dissociate from the target in the endosome, so that the therapeutic can be recycled to bind yet another molecule of target present in another cell. 30 This would allow one to administer a therapeutic antibody at a lower dose, or administer the therapeutic antibody less frequently. This is particularly useful in a situation where it is not desirable to administer a therapeutic antibody frequently, or administer at a level above a certain dosage for safety or 35 toxicity reasons.

In various embodiments, the human immunoglobulin heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence as described herein is operably linked to a human or non-human heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence (e.g., a heavy 40 chain constant region nucleotide sequence that encodes an immunoglobulin isotype selected from IgM, IgD, IgG, IgE, and IgA). In various embodiments, the human or non-human heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence is selected from the group consisting of a  $C_H1$ , a hinge, a  $C_{H2}$ , a  $C_{H3}$ , and 45 a combination thereof. In one embodiment, the constant region nucleotide sequence comprises a  $C_H1$ , a hinge, a  $C_H2$ , and a  $C_H3$  (e.g.,  $C_H1$ -hinge-a  $C_H2$ - $C_H3$ ).

In various embodiments, the heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence is present at an endogenous locus (i.e., 50 where the nucleotide sequence is located in a wild-type non-human animal) or present ectopically (e.g., at a locus different from the endogenous immunoglobulin chain locus in its genome, or within its endogenous locus, e.g., within an immunoglobulin variable locus, wherein the endogenous 55 locus is placed or moved to a different location in the genome).

In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence comprises a modification in a  $C_H2$  or a  $C_H3$ , wherein the modification increases the affinity of the heavy 60 chain constant region amino acid sequence to FcRn in an acidic environment (e.g., in an endosome where pH ranges from about 5.5 to about 6.0).

The neonatal Fc receptor for IgG (FcRn) has been well characterized in the transfer of passive humoral immunity 65 from a mother to her fetus across the placenta and proximal small intestine (Roopenian, D. and Akilesh, S., Nat. Rev.

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Immun., 2007, 7:715-725, which is incorporated by reference herein in its entirety). FcRn binds to the Fc portion of IgG at a site that is distinct from the binding sites of the classical FcyRs or the Clq component of complement, which initiates the classical pathway of complement activation. More specifically, it was shown that FcRn binds the  $C_H 2-C_H 3$  hinge region of IgG antibodies—a versatile region of Fc that also binds Staphylococcal protein A, Streptococcal protein G, and the rheumatoid factor. In contrast to other Fc-binding proteins, however, FcRn binds the Fc region of IgG in a strictly pH-dependent manner; at physiological pH 7.4, FcRn does not bind IgG, whereas at the acidic pH of the endosome (e.g., where the pH ranges from about 5.5 to about 6.0), FcRn exhibits a low micromolar to nanomolar affinity for the Fc region of IgG. This pH-dependent interaction has been shown to be mediated by the titration of histidine residues in the  $C_H 2 - C_H 3$  region of IgG and their subsequent interaction with acidic residue on the surface of FcRn (Roopenian, D. and Akilesh, S., Nat. Rev. Immun., 2007, 7:715-725, incorporated by reference in its entirety).

Various mutations in the  $C_H2-C_H3$  region of IgG that can increase the affinity of Fc region to FcRn at an acidic pH are known in the art. These include, but are not limited to, modification at position 250 (e.g., E or Q); 250 and 428 (e.g., L or F); 252 (e.g., L/Y/F/W or T), 254 (e.g., S or T), and 256 (e.g., S/R/Q/E/D or T); or a modification at 428 and/or 433 (e.g., L/R/S/P/Q or K) and/or 434 (e.g., H/F or Y); or a modification at 250 and/or 428; or a modification at 307 or 308 (e.g., 308F, V308F), and 434. In another example, the modification can comprise a 428L (e.g., M428L) and 434S (e.g., N434S) modification; a 428L, 259I (e.g., V259I), and 308F (e.g., V308F) modification; a 433K (e.g., H433K) and a 434 (e.g., 434Y) modification; a 252, 254, and 256 (e.g., 52Y, 254T, and 256E) modification; a 250Q and 428L modification, or a combination thereof.

In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence encodes a human  $C_{H2}$  amino acid sequence comprising at least one modification between amino acid residues at positions 252 and 257, wherein the modification increases the affinity of the human  $C_{H2}$  amino acid sequence to FcRn in an acidic environment (e.g., in an endosome where pH ranges from about 5.5 to about 6.0).

In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence encodes a human  $C_{H2}$  amino acid sequence comprising at least one modification between amino acid residues at positions 307 and 311, wherein the modification increases the affinity of the  $C_{H2}$  amino acid sequence to FcRn in an acidic environment (e.g., in an endosome where pH ranges from about 5.5 to about 6.0).

In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence encodes a human  $C_H3$  amino acid sequence, wherein the  $C_H3$  amino acid sequence comprises at least one modification between amino acid residues at positions 433 and 436, wherein the modification increases the affinity of the  $C_H3$  amino acid sequence to FcRn in an acidic environment (e.g., in an endosome where pH ranges from about 5.5 to about 6.0).

In one embodiment, the human constant region amino acid sequence encoded by the heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence described herein comprises a mutation selected from the group consisting of M428L, N434S, and a combination thereof. In one embodiment, the human constant region amino acid sequence comprises a mutation selected from the group consisting of M428L, V259I, V308F, and a combination thereof. In one embodiment, the human constant region amino acid sequence comprises an N434A mutation.

In one embodiment, the human constant region amino acid sequence comprises a mutation selected from the group consisting of M252Y, S254T, T256E, and a combination thereof. In one embodiment, the human constant region amino acid sequence comprises a mutation selected from the group consisting of T250Q, M248L, or both. In one embodiment, the human constant region amino acid sequence comprises a mutation selected from the group consisting of H433K, N434Y, or both.

In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region amino acid sequence is a non-human constant region amino acid sequence, and the heavy chain constant region amino acid sequence comprises one or more of any of the types of modifications described above.

In one embodiment, the heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence is a human heavy chain constant region amino acid sequence, and the human heavy chain constant region amino acid sequence comprises one or more of any of the types of modifications described above.

#### **EXAMPLES**

The following examples are put forth so as to provide those of ordinary skill in the art with a complete disclosure and description of how to make and use the present invention, and 25 are not intended to limit the scope of what the inventors regard as their invention nor are they intended to represent that the experiments below are all or the only experiments performed. Efforts have been made to ensure accuracy with respect to numbers used (e.g. amounts, temperature, etc.) but some 30 experimental errors and deviations should be accounted for. Unless indicated otherwise, parts are parts by weight, molecular weight is weight average molecular weight, temperature is in degrees Centigrade, and pressure is at or near atmospheric.

### Example 1

Construction of Humanized Immunoglobulin Heavy Chain Loci Comprising Histidine-Substituted D Gene Segments

Construction of immunoglobulin heavy chain loci comprising histidine-substituted human D gene segments was carried out by series of homologous recombination reactions in bacterial cells (BHR) using Bacterial Artificial Chromosome (BAC) DNA. Several targeting constructs for creation of a genetically engineered mouse that expresses a heavy chain variable domain comprising one or more histidine residues were generated using VELOCIGENE® genetic engineering technology (see, e.g., U.S. Pat. No. 6,586,251 and Valenzuela, D. M. et al. (2003), High-throughput engineering of the mouse genome coupled with high-resolution expression analysis, *Nature Biotechnology* 21(6):652-659, which is incorporated herein by reference in their entireties).

Initially, human D gene segments were synthesized in silico as four pieces (4 repeats) in which the codons encoding tyrosine (Y), asparagine (N), serine (S), glycine (G), and aspartate (D) in the hydrophilic frame were substituted with histidine codons (hereinafter "histidine-substituted human D 60 gene segments", i.e., HD 1.1-6.6 (9586 bp; SEQ ID NO: 1), HD 1.7-6.13 (9268 bp; SEQ ID NO: 2), HD 1.14-6.19 (9441 bp; SEQ ID NO: 3), and HD 1.20-6.25, 1.26 (11592 bp; SEQ ID NO: 4) (FIG. 3). The four repeats also contained unique restriction enzyme sites at the ends for ligating them back 65 together. The specific location of the histidine substitutions (labeled in bold type) in each human D gene segment is shown

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in FIGS. 1A and 1B in the column labeled "Hydrophilic." As shown in FIG. 1, while the modification introduced histidine codons in the hydrophilic reading frame, it also changed some stop codons to serine codons in the "Stop" reading frame. The modification, however, made few changes in the "Hydrophobic" reading frame. The detailed procedure for ligating the four synthesized D segment repeats is illustrated in FIG. 3 (sequential ligation). The resulting clone contained, from 5' to 3', a 5' mouse homology arm, a floxed neomycin cassette, human D gene segments comprising histidine substitutions (i.e., HD 1.1-6.6 (9586 bp; SEQ ID NO: 1), HD 1.7-6.13 (9268 bp; SEQ ID NO: 2), HD 1.14-6.19 (9441 bp; SEQ ID NO: 3), and HD 1.20-6.25, 1.26 (11592 bp; SEQ ID NO: 4)), a chloramphenical selection cassette, and a 3' homology arm.

The following six genetic modifications were carried out in order to replace the endogenous human D gene segments in the VELOCIMMUNE® humanized mouse with the histidine-substituted human D gene segments described above.

First, pLMa0174, containing a spectinomycin selection cassette and an AsiSI restriction site, was targeted into the 5' end of the MAID 1116 clone (Step 1. BHR (Spec); FIG. 2). During Step 1, a chloramphenicol selection cassette, a neomycin selection cassette, a loxP site, two  $V_H$  gene segments (h $V_H$ 1-3 and h $V_H$ 1-2), and the human Adam6p gene, all of which are located 5' upstream of h $V_H$ 6-1, were deleted from the MAID 1116 clone and replaced by a spectinomycin cassette to yield the V1433 clone.

Second, in Step 2 (BHR (Hyg+Spec); FIG. 2), pNTu0002 containing a hygromycin cassette flanked by FRT sites was targeted into a region comprising human immunoglobulin  $D_H$  gene segments. During Step 2, all human heavy chain D gene segments were deleted from V1433 and replaced with the hygromycin cassette to yield MAID6011 VI 434 (clone 1). The modification also introduced the PI-SceI and the I-CeuI restriction sites at the 5' and 3' end of the hygromycin cassette.

Third, the genomic region comprising histidine-substituted human D gene segments (HD 1.1-6.6 (9586 bp; SEQ ID NO: 1), HD 1.7-6.13 (9268 bp; SEQ ID NO: 2), HD 1.14-6.19 (9441 bp; SEQ ID NO: 3), and HD 1.20-6.25, 1.26 (11592 bp; 40 SEQ ID NO: 4)) were introduced into a region between the PI-SceI and the I-CeuI sites of MAID 6011 V1434 via restriction digestion and ligation (PI-Scel/I-CeuI Ligation modified 1116 (Kan+Spec); FIG. 4). This yielded MAID6012 V1469 containing, from 5' to 3', a spectinomycin cassette, about 50 kb of a genomic region comprising  $V_H$ 6-1, a floxed neomycin cassette, about 40 kb of the histidine-substituted human D gene segments (HD 1.1-6.6 (9586 bp; SEQ ID NO: 1), HD 1.7-6.13 (9268 bp; SEQ ID NO: 2), HD 1.14-6.19 (9441 bp; SEQ ID NO: 3), and HD 1.20-6.25, 1.26 (11592 bp; SEQ ID NO: 4)), and about 25 kb of a genomic region containing human  $J_H$  gene segments, followed by a mouse  $E_i(mlgH)$ intronic enhancer; SEQ ID NO: 5), a mouse switch region (SEQ ID NO: 6), and a mouse IgM constant region nucleotide sequence (mIgM exon 1; SEQ ID NO: 7). Bacterial cells 55 containing the modification were selected based on Kanamycin and Spectinomycin selection.

Fourth, MAID 1460 heterozygous mouse ES cells were targeted with MAID 6011 V1434 via electroporation in order to remove all endogenous human D gene segments from the MAID 1460 clone as illustrated in FIG. 5. This yielded MAID 6011 heterozygous mouse ES cells comprising in its immunoglobulin heavy chain locus (at the 129 strain-derived chromosome), from 5' to 3', an FRT site, human  $V_H$  gene segments, a mouse genomic region encompassing adam6a/b genes, a hygromycin cassette flanked by FRT sites, and human  $J_H$  segments, followed by a mouse  $E_i$  sequence and an IgM constant region nucleotide sequence. The genetic modi-

fication of MAID 6011 (a loss of alleles, a gain of alleles, and presence of parental alleles) was confirmed by using the probes and primers as shown in FIG. 6.

Fifth, MAID 6011 heterozygous mouse ES cells were electroporated with MAID 6012 V1469 in order to introduce 5 histidine-substituted human D gene segments (i.e., HD 1.1-6.6 (9586 bp; SEQ ID NO: 1), HD 1.7-6.13 (9268 bp; SEQ ID NO: 2), HD 1.14-6.19 (9441 bp; SEQ ID NO: 3), and HD 1.20-6.25, 1.26 (11592 bp; SEQ ID NO: 4)) into MAID 6011. The targeting step removed the floxed hygromycin selection 10 cassette from MAID 6011 and replaced the sequence with the histidine-substituted human D gene segments. This lead to MAID 6012 hetrozygous ES cells comprising a wild-type C57BL/6 strain-derived chromosome and a genetically modified 129 strain-derived chromosome comprising human wildtype  $V_H$  and  $J_H$  gene segments and the histidine-substituted human D gene segments described herein. In addition, the ES cells contained a mouse genomic region encompassing adam6a/b genes and a floxed neomycin cassette between the  $V_H$  and D segments (FIG. 7). The genetic modification of 20 MAID 6012 (a loss of alleles, a gain of alleles, and presence of parental alleles) was confirmed by using the probes and primers as shown in FIG. 8.

Lastly, MAID 6012 ES cells were electroporated with a plasmid that expresses a Cre recombinase in order to remove 25 the neomycin selection cassette from the MAID 6012 ES cells, resulting in MAID 6013 heterozygous ES cells (FIG. 9). The final MAID 6013 heterozygous ("MAID 6013 het") ES cell contains a wild-type C57BL/6 strain-derived chromosome and a genetically modified, 129 strain-derived chromo- 30 some comprising in its immunoglobulin heavy chain locus, from 5' to 3', (1) an FRT site; (2) human  $V_H$  gene segments; (3) a mouse genomic region encompassing adam6a/b genes; (4) a floxed neomycin selection cassette; (5) histidine-substituted human D gene segments (HD 1.1-6.6 (9586 bp; SEQ ID NO: 35 1), HD 1.7-6.13 (9268 bp; SEQ ID NO: 2), HD 1.14-6.19 (9441 bp; SEQ ID NO: 3), and HD 1.20-6.25, 1.26 (11592 bp; SEQ ID NO: 4)); (6) human  $J_H$  gene segments; followed by (7) a mouse E, sequence (mIgH intronic enhancer; SEQ ID NO: 5), (8) a switch region (SEQ ID NO: 6); and (9) a mouse 40 IgM constant region nucleotide sequence (mIgM exon 1; SEQ ID NO: 7) as illustrated in FIG. 9.

The targeted ES cells (MAID 6013) described above were used as donor ES cells and introduced into an 8-cell stage mouse embryo by the VELOCIMOUSE® method (see, e.g., U.S. Pat. No. 7,576,259, U.S. Pat. No. 7,659,442, U.S. Pat. No. 7,294,754, US 2008-0078000 A1, all of which are incorporated by reference herein in their entireties). Mice bearing the genetically modified immunoglobulin heavy chain locus comprising the histidine-substituted human heavy chain D 50 gene segments described herein were identified by genotyping using the primers and probes set forth in FIG. 8. The resulting genetically modified F0 mouse was crossed to a wild-type mouse to obtain F1 offspring. F1 pups were genotyped, and the F1 pups that are heterozygous for the geneti- 55 cally modified immunoglobulin locus comprising histidinesubstituted human heavy chain D gene segments were selected for further characterization.

### Example 2

### Analysis of Rearranged Heavy Chain Variable Region Nucleotide Sequences

Next, it was examined whether the genetically modified 65 mouse comprising histidine-substituted human D gene segments described herein, i.e., 6013 F0 heterozygous mouse,

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which comprises in its germline a 129 strain-derived chromosome comprising human  ${\rm V}_H$ ,  ${\rm J}_H$  gene segments, and histidine-substituted human D gene segments (HD 1.1-6.6 (9586 bp; SEQ ID NO: 1), HD 1.7-6.13 (9268 bp; SEQ ID NO: 2), HD 1.14-6.19 (9441 bp; SEQ ID NO: 3), and HD 1.20-6.25, 1.26 (11592 bp; SEQ ID NO: 4), can express rearranged heavy chain V(D)J sequences comprising one or more histidine codons derived from the genetically modified immunoglobulin heavy chain locus.

To this end, mRNA sequences encoding IgM heavy chain variable region were analyzed for the presence of IgM CDR3 sequences derived from the histidine-substituted human D gene segments via high throughput sequencing. Briefly, spleens were harvested and homogenized in 1×PBS (Gibco) using glass slides. Cells were pelleted in a centrifuge (500×g for 5 minutes), and red blood cells were lysed in ACK Lysis buffer (Gibco) for 3 minutes. Cells were washed with 1×PBS and filtered using a 0.7 µm cell strainer. B-cells were isolated from spleen cells using MACS magnetic positive selection for CD19 (Miltenyi Biotec). Total RNA was isolated from pelleted B-cells using the RNeasy Plus kit (Qiagen). PolyA+mRNA was isolated from total RNA using the Oligotex® Direct mRNA mini kit (Qiagen).

Double-stranded cDNA was prepared from splenic B cell mRNA by 5' RACE using the SMARTer™ Pico cDNA Synthesis Kit (Clontech). The Clontech reverse transcriptase and dNTPs were substituted with Superscript II and dNTPs from Invitrogen. Heavy chain variable region (V_H) antibody repertoires were amplified from the cDNA using primers specific for IgM constant regions and the SMARTerTM 5' RACE primer (Table 1). PCR products were cleaned up using a QIAquick® PCR Purification Kit (Qiagen). A second round of PCR was done using the same 5' RACE primer and a nested 3' primer specific for the IgM constant regions (Table 2). The second round PCR products were purified using a SizeSelect™ E-Gel® system (Invitrogen). A third PCR was performed with primers that added 454 adapters and barcodes. The third round PCR products were purified using Agencourt® AMPure® XP Beads. Purified PCR products were quantified by SYBR®-qPCR using a KAPA Library Quantification Kit (KAPA Biosystems). Pooled libraries were subjected to emulsion PCR (emPCR) using the 454 GS Junior Titanium Series Lib-A emPCR Kit (Roche Diagnostics) and bidirectional sequencing using Roche 454 GS Junior instrument according to the manufacturers protocols.

TABLE 1

NAME	SEQUENCE				
3' mIgM CH1 outer	TCTTATCAGACAGGGGGCTCTC	(SEQ	ID	NO:	321)

#### TABLE 2

NAME	SEQUENCE				
3' mIgM CH1 inner	GGAAGACATTTGGGAAGGACTG	(SEQ	ID	NO:	322)

Bioinfomatic Analysis

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The 454 sequences were sorted based on the sample barcode perfect match and trimmed for quality. Custom D database was created using histidine-substituted human D-gene segments. Sequences were annotated based on alignment of rearranged Ig sequences to human germline V and J gene segments database using local installation of igblast (NCBI,

v2.2.25+). Sequences derived from the endogenous mouse immunoglobulin heavy chain locus were filtered out using similarity threshold of 90%. A sequence was marked as ambiguous and removed from analysis when multiple best hits with identical score were detected. A set of perl scripts was developed to analyze results and store data in mysql database. The CDR3 region was defined between conserved C codon and FGXG motif (SEQ ID NO: 323) for light chains and WGXG motif (SEQ ID NO: 324) for heavy chains. CDR3 length was determined using only productive antibodies. Number of histidine codons was calculated for each CDR3 region.

As shown in FIGS. 11-13, the 6013 F0 heterozygous mice expressed a diverse repertoire of rearranged heavy chain variable region mRNA sequences (rearranged V-D-J sequences) encoding one or more histidine codons in CDR3. The sequencing and alignment data suggested that the histidine codons appeared in CDR3 sequences were derived from vari-

ous histidine-substituted human D gene segments present in the genetically modified immunoglobulin heavy chain locus of the 6013 mice described herein. In addition, as compared with control mice comprising human  $V_H$ ,  $D_H$ ,  $J_H$  gene segments and mouse adam6 genes (VI3-Adam6, US Publication No. 2012/0322108A1, which is incorporated by reference in its entirety), the genetically modified 6013 F0 heterozygous mice exhibited a higher frequency of histidine occurrence in the heavy chain CDR3 sequences (FIG. 14).

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While the described invention has been described with reference to the specific embodiments thereof it should be understood by those skilled in the art that various changes may be made and equivalents may be substituted without departing from the true spirit and scope of the invention. In addition, many modifications may be made to adopt a particular situation, material, composition of matter, process, process step or steps, to the objective spirit and scope of the described invention. All such modifications are intended to be within the scope of the claims appended hereto.

#### SEQUENCE LISTING

<160> NUMBER OF SEC ID NOS: 324 <210> SEQ ID NO 1 <211> LENGTH: 9586 <212> TYPE: DNA <213> ORGANISM: Homo sapiens <220> FEATURE: <221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature <222> LOCATION: (1)..(9586) <223> OTHER INFORMATION: HD 1.1-6.6 <400> SEQUENCE: 1 teccegttga agetgaeetg eccagagggg eetgggeeca ecceaeaeae eggggeggaa 60 tgtgtacagg ccccggtctc tgtgggtgtt ccgctaactg gggctcccag tgctcacccc 120 acaactaaag cgagcccag cctccagagc ccccgaagga gatgccgccc acaagcccag cccccatcca ggaggcccca gagctcaggg cgccggggca gattctgaac agccccgagt cacggtgggt accactggca cgaccaccgt gagaaaaact gtgtccaaaa ctgtctcctg 300 geceetgetg gaggeegege cagagagggg ageageegee eegaacetag gteetgetea 360 qctcacacqa cccccaqcac ccaqaqcaca acqqaqtccc cattqaatqq tqaqqacqqq qaccaqqqct ccaqqqqqtc atqqaaqqqq ctqqacccca tcctactqct atqqtcccaq 480 tgctcctggc cagaactgac cctaccaccg acaagagtcc ctcagggaaa cgggggtcac 540 tggcacctcc cagcatcaac cccaggcagc acaggcataa accccacatc cagagccgac 600 tocaqqaqca qaqacacccc aqtaccctqq qqqacaccqa ccctqatqac tccccactqq 660 aatccacccc aqaqtccacc aqqaccaaaq acccqcccc tqtctctqtc cctcactcaq 720 gacctgctgc ggggcgggcc atgagaccag actcgggctt agggaacacc actgtggccc 780 caacetegae caggecacag geetteett cetgeeetge ggeageacag actttggggt 840 ctgtgcagag aggaatcaca gaggccccag gctgaggtgg tgggggtgga agacccccag 900 gaggtggccc acttcccttc ctcccagctg gaacccacca tgaccttctt aagatagggg 960 tgtcatccga ggcaggtcct ccatggagct cccttcaggc tcctccccgg tcctcactag 1020 gcctcagtcc cggctgcggg aatgcagcca ccacaggcac accaggcagc ccagacccag 1080 1140 gggetececa eegeeeeee geacaceeea eecaeeeetg teeaggeeet atgeaggagg 1200 1260 qtcaqaqccc cccatqqqqt atqqacttaq qqtctcactc acqtqqctcc cctcctqqqt

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Thr Thr Val Val Thr
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Val Asp Thr Ala Met Val
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Val Asp Ile Val Ala Thr Ile
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- Jongsoney caacy		
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gaacacggcg gcatcag
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Tyr Asn Arg Asn His
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Tyr Gln Leu Leu Cys
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Gly Tyr Cys Ser Ser Thr Ser Cys Tyr Ala
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Asp Ile Val Val Val Pro Ala Ala Met
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Gly Tyr Cys Ser Ser Thr Ser Cys Tyr Ala
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Asp Ile Val Val Pro Ala Ala Met
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Arg Ile Leu Tyr Trp Trp Cys Met Leu Tyr
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Gly Tyr Cys Thr Gly Gly Val Cys Tyr Thr
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His Ile Val Val Val Ile Ala Ile
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Val Leu Leu Cys Ser Gly Ser Tyr Tyr Asn
1 5 10
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Tyr Tyr Tyr Val Arg Gly Val Ile Ile
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Leu Arg Leu Gly Glu Leu Cys Leu Tyr
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Ile Met Ile Thr Phe Gly Gly Val Met Leu Ile
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tgactacagt aactac
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acctgcgctg tctatggtgg gtccttcagt ggttactact ggagctggat ccgccagccc
                                                                      120
ccagggaagg ggctggagtg gattggggaa atcaatcata gtggaagcac caactacaac
                                                                      180
cegteectea agagtegagt caccatatea gtagacaegt ceaagaaeea gtteteeetg
                                                                      240
aagetgaget etgtgacege egeggacaeg getgtgtatt aetgtgeggg geatageeat
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Gly Glu Ile Asn His Ser Gly Ser Thr Asn Tyr Asn Pro Ser Leu Lys
Ser Arg Val Thr Ile Ser Val Asp Thr Ser Lys Asn Gln Phe Ser Leu 65 70 75 80
Lys Leu Ser Ser Val Thr Ala Ala Asp Thr Ala Val Tyr Tyr Cys Ala
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Gly His Ser His Gly Trp Tyr Tyr Tyr Tyr Tyr Gly Met Asp Val Trp
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Gly Tyr Tyr T	Trp Ser Trp	Ile Arg 40	Gln His	Pro	Gly	Lys 45	Gly	Leu	Glu	
Trp Ile Gly T	Tyr Ile Tyr	Tyr Ser 55	Gly Ser	Thr	Tyr 60	Tyr	Asn	Pro	Ser	
Leu Lys Ser A	Arg Val Thr 70	Ile Ser	Val Asp	Thr	Ser	ГÀа	Asn	Gln	Phe 80	
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tacaacccgt co	cctcaagag to	egagteaco	c atatco	gtag	acac	gtco	caa ç	gaaco	cagttc	240
tccctgaagc to	gagetetgt ga	accgccgca	a gacaco	gctg	tgta	ittad	etg t	gega	agacat	300
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Ser Tyr Tyr T 35	Trp Gly Trp	Ile Arg 40	Gln Pro	Pro	Gly	Lys 45	Gly	Leu	Glu	
Trp Ile Gly S	Ser Ile Tyr	Tyr Ser 55	Gly Ser	Thr	Tyr 60	Tyr	Asn	Pro	Ser	
Leu Lys Ser A 65	Arg Val Thr 70	Ile Ser	Val Asp	Thr 75	Ser	rys	Asn	Gln	Phe 80	
Ser Leu Lys I	Leu Ser Ser 85	Val Thr	Ala Ala 90	Asp	Thr	Ala	Val	Tyr 95	Tyr	
Cys Ala Arg H	His Glu Gly 100	His Ser	His Leu 105	Asn	Trp	Phe	Asp 110	Pro	Trp	
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Ser Tyr Tyr Trp Gly Trp Ile Arg Gln Pro Pro Gly Lys Gly Leu Glu
 \hbox{Trp Ile Gly Ser Ile Tyr Tyr Ser Gly Ser Thr Tyr Tyr Asn Pro Ser } \\
                     55
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1
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What is claimed is:

- 1. A non-human animal comprising
- (i) in its germline genome a genetically modified immunoglobulin heavy chain locus comprising an unrearranged human immunoglobulin heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence, wherein the unrearranged heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence comprises an addition of at least one histidine codon or a substitution of at least one non-histidine codon with a histidine codon, wherein the histidine codon is not encoded by a corresponding human germline heavy chain variable region gene segment; and
- wherein the added or substituted histidine codon is present in a complementary determining region 3 (CDR3) encoding sequence.
- 2. The non-human animal of claim 1, wherein the non-human animal is a mammal.
- 3. The non-human animal of claim 2, wherein the mammal is a rodent selected from the group consisting of a mouse, a rat, and a hamster.
- **4**. The non-human animal of claim **1**, wherein the CDR3 encoding sequence is selected from a human  $V_H$  gene segment sequence, a human D gene segment sequence, a human  $I_H$  gene segment sequence, and a combination thereof.
- 5. The non-human animal of claim 1, wherein the CDR3 encoding sequence is selected from a human germline  $V_H$  40 gene segment sequence, a human germline D gene segment sequence, and a combination thereof.
- **6.** The non-human animal of claim **5**, further comprising at least a second additional or substituted histidine codon in at 45 least one reading frame of the human immunoglobulin heavy chain gene segment that encodes a heavy chain variable domain selected from an N-terminal region, a loop 4 region, a complementary determining region 1 (CDR1), a complementary determining region 2 (CDR2), the complementary 50 determining region 3 (CDR3), and a combination thereof.
- 7. The non-human animal of claim 1, wherein the endogenous non-histidine codon that is substituted with the histidine codon encodes the amino acid selected from the group consisting of Y, N, D, Q, S, W, and R.
- 8. The non-human animal of claim 1, wherein the added or substituted histidine codon is present in at least one reading frame of a human D gene segment.
- 9. The non-human animal of claim 8, wherein the reading frame is a hydrophilic frame of the human D gene segment, 60 and the hydrophilic frame comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 46, SEQ ID NO: 48, SEQ ID NO: 50, SEQ ID NO: 52, SEQ ID NO: 54, SEQ ID NO: 56, SEQ ID NO: 58, SEQ ID NO: 60, SEQ ID NO: 62, SEQ ID NO: 64, 65 SEQ ID NO: 66, SEQ ID NO: 68, SEQ ID NO: 70, SEQ ID NO: 72, SEQ ID NO: 74, SEQ ID NO: 76, SEQ ID NO: 78,

SEQ ID NO: 80, SEQ ID NO: 82, SEQ ID NO: 84, SEQ ID NO: 86, and a combination thereof.

- 10. The non-human animal of claim 1, wherein the unrearranged human immunoglobulin heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence is operably linked to a human or non-human heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence.
- 11. The non-human animal of claim 10, wherein the unrearranged human immunoglobulin heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence is operably linked to an endogenous non-human heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of a  $C_H1$ , a hinge, a  $C_H2$ , a  $C_H3$ , and a combination thereof.
- 12. The non-human animal of claim 10, wherein the human heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence comprises a modification that increases an affinity of a  $C_H 2 C_H 3$  region of an IgG heavy chain constant region amino acid sequence to neonatal Fc receptor (FcRn) at a pH ranging from about 5.5 to about 6.0, wherein the modification is a mutation in the IgG heavy chain constant region amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of M428L, N434S, V259I, V308F, N434A, M252Y, S254T, T256E, T250Q, H433K, N434Y, and a combination thereof.
- 13. The non-human animal of claim 1, wherein the non-human animal is homozygous for the genetically modified immunoglobulin heavy chain locus in the germline.
- 14. The non-human animal of claim 1, wherein the non-human animal further comprises an unrearranged human immunoglobulin light chain V gene segment and an unrearranged human immunoglobulin light chain J gene segment.
- 15. The non-human animal of claim 1, wherein the non-human animal comprises a B cell population that is capable of producing a diverse population of antigen-binding proteins that exhibit pH-dependent binding, each comprising a heavy chain variable domain having at least one histidine residue derived from the added or substituted histidine codon.
- 16. The non-human animal of claim 15, wherein at least one B cell of the B cell population comprises a rearranged human immunoglobulin heavy chain variable region sequence that is derived from the modified immunoglobulin heavy chain locus and that comprises at least one somatic hypermutation (SHM).
- 17. The non-human animal of claim 15, wherein the antigen-binding protein produced by the B cell population exhibits a decreased antigen-binding affinity at a pH ranging from about 5.5 to about 6.0 as compared with at a neutral pH ranging from about 7.0 to about 7.4.
- **18**. The non-human animal of claim **1**, wherein the non-human animal is heterozygous for the genetically modified immunoglobulin heavy chain locus in the germline.
- 19. The non-human animal of claim 1, wherein the non-human animal comprises an Adam6a gene, an Adam6b gene, or both.
- **20**. A method of making a non-human animal that comprises a genetically modified immunoglobulin heavy chain locus in its germline genome, the method comprising:

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- (a) modifying a genome of a non-human animal to delete or render non-functional endogenous immunoglobulin heavy chain V, D, and I gene segments in an immunoglobulin heavy chain locus; and
- (b) placing in the genome an unrearranged human heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence comprising an addition of at least one histidine codon or a substitution of at least one endogenous non-histidine codon with a histidine codon, wherein the histidine codon is not encoded by a corresponding human germline heavy chain variable region gene segment; and wherein the added or substituted histidine codon is present in a complementary determining region 3 (CDR3) encoding sequence.
- **21**. The method of claim **20**, wherein the CDR3 encoding 15 sequence is selected from a human  $V_H$  gene segment, a human D gene segment, a human  $J_H$  gene segment, and a combination thereof.
- **22**. The method of claim **20**, wherein the CDR3 encoding sequence is selected from a human germline  $V_H$  gene segment 20 sequence, a human germline D gene segment sequence, a human germline  $J_H$  gene segment sequence, and a combination thereof.
- 23. The method of claim 20, further comprising at least a second additional or substituted histidine codon in at least one 25 reading frame encoding a heavy chain variable domain selected from an N-terminal region, a loop 4 region, a complementary determining region 1 (CDR1), a complementary determining region 2 (CDR2), the complementary determining region 3 (CDR3), and a combination thereof.
- 24. The method of claim 20, wherein the endogenous non-histidine codon that is replaced with the histidine codon encodes the amino acid selected from the group consisting of Y, N, D, Q, S, W, and R.
- **25**. The method of claim **20**, wherein the added or substituted histidine codon is present in one or more reading frame of a human D gene segment.
- 26. The method of claim 25, wherein the reading frame is a hydrophilic frame of the human D gene segment, and the hydrophilic frame comprises a nucleotide sequence that 40 encodes the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 46, SEQ ID NO: 48, SEQ ID NO: 50, SEQ ID NO: 52, SEQ ID NO: 54, SEQ ID NO: 56, SEQ ID NO: 58, SEQ ID NO: 60, SEQ ID NO: 62, SEQ ID NO: 64, SEQ ID NO: 66, SEQ ID NO: 68, SEQ ID NO: 70, SEQ ID NO: 72, SEQ ID NO: 74, SEQ ID NO: 76, SEQ ID NO: 78, SEQ ID NO: 80, SEQ ID NO: 82, SEQ ID NO: 84, SEQ ID NO: 86, and a combination thereof.
- **27**. The method of claim **20**, wherein the unrearranged immunoglobulin human heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence is operably linked to a human or non-human

heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of a  $C_H1$ , a hinge, a  $C_H2$ , a  $C_H3$ , and a combination thereof.

- 28. The method of claim 27, wherein the unrearranged immunoglobulin human heavy chain variable region nucleotide sequence is operably linked to an endogenous nonhuman heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of a  $C_H1$ , a hinge, a  $C_H2$ , a  $C_H3$ , and a combination thereof.
- **29**. The method of claim **27**, wherein the human heavy chain constant region nucleotide sequence comprises a modification that increases an affinity of a  $C_H 2 C_H 3$  region of an IgG heavy chain constant region amino acid sequence to neonatal Fc receptor (FcRn) at a pH ranging from about 5.5 to about 6.0, wherein the modification is a mutation in the IgG heavy chain constant region amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of M428L, N4345, V2591, V308F, N434A, M252Y, 5254T, T256E T250Q, H433K, N434Y, and a combination thereof.
- **30**. The method of claim **20**, wherein the non-human animal is homozygous for the genetically modified immunoglobulin heavy chain locus in the germline genome.
- 31. The method of claim 20, wherein the non-human animal comprising the genetically modified immunoglobulin heavy chain locus comprises a B cell population that is capable of producing an diverse population of antigen-binding proteins that exhibit pH-dependent binding, each comprising a heavy chain variable domain having at least one histidine residue derived from the added or substituted histidine codon.
- 32. The method of claim 31, wherein at least one B cell of the B cell population comprises a rearranged human immunoglobulin heavy chain variable region sequence that is derived from the modified immunoglobulin heavy chain locus and that comprises at least one somatic hypermutation (SHM)
- 33. The method of claim 31, wherein the antigen-binding protein produced by the B cell population exhibits a decreased antigen-binding affinity at a pH ranging from about 5.5 to about 6.0 as compared with at a neutral pH ranging from about 7.0 to about 7.4.
- **34**. The method of claim **20**, wherein the non-human animal comprises an Adam6a gene, an Adam6b gene, or both.
- **35**. The method of claim **20**, wherein the method results in a genetically modified animal that comprises a population of B cells for antibodies exhibiting enhanced pH-dependent binding to an antigen of interest.

* * * * *